



KMK Law Achieves Mansfield Certified Plus Status

KMK Law is proud to announce the Firm has achieved Mansfield Certified Plus status for 2022-2023, a status earned as a result of completing Diversity Lab's Mansfield Rule 12-month certification program. Firms that not only consider, but also achieve, diverse representation during the year-long certification period are awarded Certified Plus status. KMK Law was part of the Midsize Mansfield Cohort.

"We are proud to have achieved Mansfield Certified Plus status for 2022-2023," said Alan Fershtman, Managing Partner at KMK Law. "This recognition highlights our ongoing efforts to create a diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment within our Firm. We strongly believe that diverse perspectives enrich our work, enhance our problem-solving capabilities, and ultimately benefit our clients."

Mansfield Certified Plus, awarded by Diversity Lab, measures our efforts over the past year to ensure paths to leadership—including lateral hiring, client pitch teams, promotions, appointments, and more—are open and transparent to all qualified lawyers.



Mansfield Rule
Certified Plus 2022-2023

Powered by
DIVERSITYLAB

"I take great pride in the achievements of our firm in the DEI space," added Kate Christoff, Director of Legal Talent & Diversity at KMK Law. "We grasp the significance of not only acknowledging diversity but also actively fostering it. Our commitment to progress remains unwavering, with the goal of making sure our firm mirrors the diverse world within which we operate."

KMK Law has consistently demonstrated its commitment to diversity and inclusion, making it a priority in its hiring, retention, and advancement practices. By actively participating in the Mansfield Rule program and achieving Certified Plus status, the firm has reaffirmed its dedication to fostering a diverse and inclusive workplace.

If you want to learn more about our Mansfield participation, please contact Kate Christoff.

Cincinnati Black Developers Conference

In September, KMK Law proudly supported the Black Developers Conference hosted by the City of Cincinnati, in coordination with the Port, Cincinnati Development Fund, and Realtists. The two-day conference brought together Black developers, professionals, and business and civic leaders in an effort to provide minority development opportunities, foster public/private partnerships, and eliminate barriers that hinder minority firms from obtaining favorable contracts. Attorney and former Cincinnati Mayor John Cranley was a panelist speaker at the conference. Real Estate Partner Ken Kreider and Brandon Simmons of KMK Consulting, as well as Riverbend Commercial Title Services professionals, were also available to conference attendees in the conference resource room.



Brandon Simmons



Ken Kreider



John Cranley

KUDOS & CONGRATULATIONS!



Mianda Bashala
Named to The National Black Lawyers Top 100

Congratulations to Mianda Bashala who was named to The National Black Lawyers Top 100. The National Black Lawyers is an invitation-only professional development and networking association comprised of the top African American attorneys from across the country. This exclusive organization selects the most successful and influential lawyers with reputations for providing excellent legal representation in their respective practice areas.

Mianda was also recently elected as a Board Member for Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy.



Corporate Olympics

Congratulations to the KMK Corporate Olympics team for taking 1st Place in the Corporate Olympics on Fountain Square. Team members are Jordan Spivey, Caroline Bumgarner, Luke Carlton, Jack Augenstein, Casey Lacey and two-time champion Chad Mayer. The Corporate Olympics benefits Special Olympics Ohio whose mission is to advance the global inclusion movement through sports, health education, and leadership programs that empower people with intellectual disabilities throughout Ohio.



Annual Juneteenth Celebration

In celebration of Juneteenth, KMK Law hosted a luncheon in June for all attorneys, staff, and summer associates, including a presentation by David Goodwin, a local, fourth-generation journalist of the Goodwin family from Tulsa, Oklahoma—owners of the 10th oldest black-owned newspaper in the U.S. still publishing today. Catering was provided by Black-owned Magnificent Morsels, winner of the Earn Your Stripes Competition sponsored by Paycor and the Cincinnati Bengals.



Summer Work Experience in Law (SWEL)

KMK was proud to welcome SWEL student, Summer Jones, to the firm this summer. Summer is an undergraduate student at Barnard College of Columbia University, where she is majoring in religion. She is the Junior Class President-Elect. 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.



Pride Watch Party

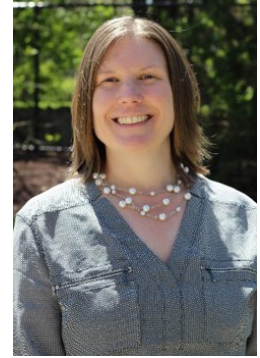
On June 24, 2023, KMK Law partnered with First Financial Bank's Pride & Allies Business Resource Group to host a Cincinnati Pride Parade watch party for employees and their families.



Autism Awareness

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee, in partnership with the Quality Experience Committee, hosted a lunch event in April in recognition of National Autism Awareness Month.

Dr. Jennifer D. Smith, PsyD, BCBA-D, a licensed Clinical Psychologist, Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, and Director of the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disabilities (LEND) program at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center/University of Cincinnati, along with LEND advocates Lori Hogenkamp, BA and Greg Miller, provided an introduction to the Neurodiversity Movement, discussed the importance of language and listening with respect to people with Autism, and shed light on inclusion efforts in the Cincinnati community.



Stacy Cole



Nicole Cloyd

GCMCP Pitch Event

On September 21, 2023, Stacy Cole and Nicole Cloyd had the opportunity to pitch their expertise in IP and Privacy to participating corporations at a pitch event hosted by the Greater Cincinnati Minority Counsel Program at the GE Learning Center. Stacy was also one of the presenters at the CLE luncheon focused on how law departments might navigate the risks of utilizing artificial intelligence (AI) to realize the potential opportunities of AI.

KMK Law to Host Sixth Annual Diversity Case Competition

KMK Law will be hosting the Sixth Annual Law Student Diversity Case Competition, which will be held on January 12 & 13, 2024.

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.

Kate Christoff

Director of Legal Talent and Diversity
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KMK Law Mourns Largest Loss Of Jewish Lives Since The Holocaust

On October 7, 2023, during the Jewish holiday of Shemini Atzeret and the Jewish Sabbath, the terrorist organization Hamas indiscriminately launched thousands of rockets into Israeli population centers such as Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, and a surprise ground invasion into various Israeli cities. The reported death toll in Israel has surpassed 1,400 purposefully targeted Jewish non-combatant civilians, with thousands more targeted Jewish non-combatants injured and approximately 150 Jewish men, woman, children and bodies taken into the Gaza Strip to be held as hostages by Hamas. KMK Law stands with the people of Israel, and expresses its deepest sympathies for the families who are the victims of this senseless terrorist attack.

#KMKCares

2023 Founders' Weekend 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 August 5-6, 2023, KMK held its annual Founders' Weekend of Service with two service events:

Tikkun Farm is 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.

Matthew 25: Ministries is an international relief organization that distributes more than 15 million pounds of product each year. KMK collected donations of gently-worn clothes and volunteers helped to process these items and other goods received from the public for delivery to needy communities.



Sweet Cheeks Diaper Bank Wrappy Hour

KMK Law hosted a Wrappy Hour in June to support Sweet Cheeks Diaper Bank. KMK attorneys, summer associates, and family members wrapped more than 21,000 diapers.



Big Brown Truck Pull Fundraiser

For the second year in a row, KMK Law has donated to the Big Brown Truck Pull, hosted by Special Olympics Kentucky. The Big Brown Truck Pull, which is hosted annually in Lexington, KY, since its inception benefited over 11,300 Special Olympics athletes across the state of Kentucky. The KMK Law team was led by Nicole Cloyd.





Top 150 Under 150

KMK Law was selected to the Vault 2024 “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.



Top Workplaces

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



2023 Committee Members

KMK recognizes the current members of the Diversity 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

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

Stephanie Bisselberg	Vince Jabour	Claire Parrish	Jason Stitt
Kate Christoff	Shannon Lawson	Adrienne Roach	Allie Westfall
Karin Goitman			

Women’s Initiative Committee

Emily Schott (Co-Chairperson)
Allie Westfall (Co-Chairperson)

Kate Christoff	Caroline Musekamp
Sarah Vonderbrink Geiger	Antoinette Schindel
Sophia Holley	Darcy Watt
Mary Ellen Malas	

KMK Cares Committee

Adam Centner (Chairperson)

Jodee Hebert	Emily Schott
James Kezele	Kelley Brandstetter Tracy
Joe Lehnert	Taylor Trout
Antoinette Schindel	Owen Walsh

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