

Alumni News

SPRING 2024

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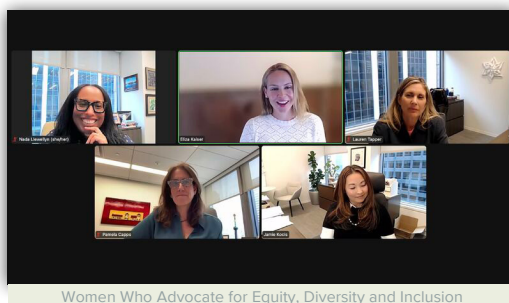
2024 RJJ Scholars

Cultural Observances

Women's History Month

In recognition of Women's History Month, the firm hosted a panel, "Getting Their Fair Shot – The Drive for Equity in Women's Basketball," hosted by **Jamie Kocis**. This pivotal event featured WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert, former Notre Dame head women's basketball coach Muffet McGraw, and Zoe Brooks, a freshman guard at NC State. The panel discussed transforming the economic model of women's sports, dispelling stereotypes about female athletes, and encouraging more collaboration between men and women to bolster visibility of these issues.

Following the panel, the firm kicked off the 2024 Kramer Levin Women's NCAA Bracket Challenge. Two hundred twenty-nine people participated in the competition, and the firm will donate \$20,000 to charities focused on supporting women in sports on behalf of winners Drew Oglesby (Lexia), Austin Ryback (J.G. Wentworth), Deneen Melander (GW University Law School), Todd Keebaugh (Eliassen Group), Stephen Levey (Stone Point Capital) and Robert Cohen (Carroll Guido Groffman Cohen Bar & Karalian LLP).



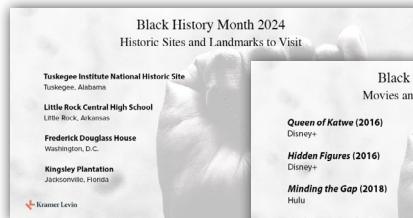
In keeping with the Women's History Month theme of "Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion," the Women's Initiative Network and the Diversity and Inclusion team conducted a panel discussion with Kramer Levin women who have consistently engaged with DEI work. Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer **Nada Llewellyn** moderated a panel comprised of Tax partner **Pamela Capps**, Employment Law partner **Eliza Kaiser**, Corporate partner **Jamie Kocis** and Chief Legal Talent Officer **Lauren Tapper**.

Black History Month

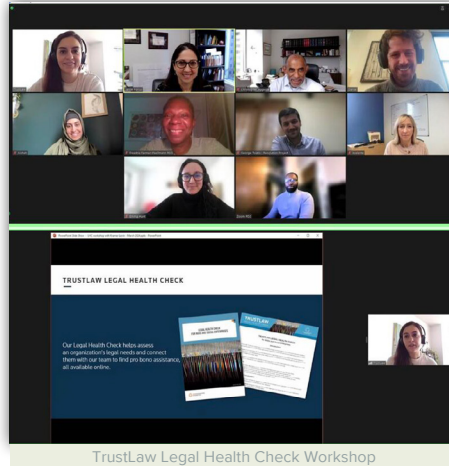
The firm marked Black History Month in February with several events and observances. Kramer Levin leveraged its social media presence, not only to celebrate and amplify Black lives and voices, but also to study the essential contributions of Black people in American history. We offered lists of movies that explore the Black experience, historic sites and landmarks to visit, and museum exhibitions that preserve and celebrate the rich cultural heritage of Black people.

For the fifth year in a row, the Pro Bono team co-sponsored a virtual Legal Health Check Workshop. We partnered with TrustLaw, the Thomson Reuters Foundation's global pro bono legal program, to provide a pro bono "health check" for NGOs and social enterprises whose missions focus on racial justice and/or empowering women and girls of color in and around New York City. As part of the clinic, our Pro Bono team advised Restitution Study Group, Strong Minds America, Resolution Project, Strange Inc. and Wikitongues.

Also in February, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer **Nada Llewellyn** and our Diversity and Inclusion team hosted a session titled "**Honoring Our History: The Legacy of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.**" This session, led by President and Executive Director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law Damon Todd Hewitt, explored the impact of this critical legislation on the 60th anniversary of its passage.



Social media posts;
"Honoring Our History"



Lunar New Year

In addition to a festive social media post commemorating the Lunar New Year, our Banking and Finance group rang in the year of the Dragon with its annual Chinese New Year banquet.



New Laterals



Daniel Lerman Joins Kramer Levin as Deputy Chair of Supreme Court and Appellate Litigation Practice

Daniel N. Lerman, a former appellate attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice's Criminal Division, has joined the firm as a partner in its nationally recognized Litigation Department. He will litigate

matters at both the trial and appellate levels and serve as deputy chair of the Supreme Court and Appellate Litigation practice and be resident in the firm's Washington, DC, office.

During his six years with the Appellate Section of the Criminal Division of the DOJ, Dan briefed numerous U.S. Supreme Court cases, argued on behalf of the United States in federal courts of appeals across the country and advised on complex appellate issues.

At Kramer Levin, he will focus on trial and appellate matters involving criminal law, intellectual property law, constitutional law, commercial litigation, securities law, bankruptcy law, environmental law and administrative law, drawing on his extensive public and private sector experience and his Ph.D. in biology.

Prior to serving with the DOJ, Dan spent eight years as a trial and appellate litigator at the DC litigation boutique Robbins, Russell, Englert, Orseck & Untereiner LLP, which combined with Kramer Levin in 2022. While at Robbins Russell, Dan argued and won before the U.S. Supreme Court a challenge on behalf of the American Trucking Associations to the city of Los Angeles' Clean Air Action Plan regulations imposed at the port of Los Angeles, securing a unanimous decision from the Court that reversed the district court and Ninth Circuit decisions and found that the regulations were preempted by the Federal Aviation Administration Authorization Act of 1994.



Clément Vandevooghel Joins Paris Office as Partner in the Banking and Finance Department

Clément Vandevooghel has joined the Paris office as partner, strengthening its team within the Banking and Finance department.

Accompanied by his colleague Agathe Llorens, he joins a team made up of partners **Sophie Perus** and **Gilles Saint-Marc** and led by **Dana Anagnostou**, co-managing partner of the Paris office. Clément will also work in close collaboration with fund structuring partner **Nicolas Capelli** and **Sébastien Pontillo**, co-managing partner of the Paris office and partner in the Corporate department.

Clément brings his experience in securitization, structured financing and capital markets, consolidating the firm's strategy in a rapidly expanding field as well as its position in the European market.

With 23 years of experience, Clément represents a diverse clientele, including financial institutions, asset managers, credit managers, French and international groups, private equity funds, and insurance companies. His experience extends to a wide range of financial transactions, such as structured financing, securitizations, disposals of nonperforming debt portfolios and asset-backed financing, in domestic and international markets.

Over the course of his career, Clément has led securitization transactions covering various assets, including commercial receivables, real estate loans, consumer credit and infrastructure financing. He has also participated in covered bond issues, the creation of debt funds and the establishment of refinancing platforms in partnership with institutional investors. Involved in capital markets operations, he is particularly involved in project bonds and covered bond programs.

Gary R. Tarnoff Retires

Please join us in wishing Gary Tarnoff well as he transitions to retirement. Gary arrived at the firm in 2002 with a cohort of land use partners from the firm KMZ Rosenman (now Katten). He quickly became a leader in our land use practice, steadily building his practice in zoning, land use, landmarks and New York City administrative law. During his time at the firm, he also served as co-chair of our Land Use practice.

He has represented developers, corporations, REITs, religious and higher education institutions, among others, and throughout his career has become a highly regarded lecturer on land use matters at law schools and for CLE courses. Gary has also been an active pro bono contributor over the years.



Alumni Moves

Former Litigation associate Aaron Jacobs has left to clerk for Magistrate Judge Hon. James L. Cott in the Southern District of New York.



What are you up to?

We track moves to in-house positions, government and nonprofits. If you have moved or would like to be included in a future Alumni Moves announcement, please email us at alumni@kramerlevin.com.

Recent Events

Kramer Levin Hosts Program of Real Estate Heavyweights To Discuss Challenges and Priorities for NYC Office-To-Residential Conversions

Kramer Levin convened a room of real estate heavy hitters for their “The Conversion of Office to Residential: Defining NYC’s Future” event at the Kramer Levin Multimedia Conference Center in NYC on April 9.

Partner **Dan Berman** opened the event by emphasizing the urgency of the subject at hand. The City of Yes for Housing Opportunity zoning proposal was detailed in a conversation moderated by Land Use co-chair **Elise Wagner**.

Real Estate chair **Jay Neveloff** moderated a panel discussion about the complexities of financing conversion projects. He was joined by Marty Burger, Principal, Infinity Global; Kenneth Horn, Founder and President, Alchemy; Darcy Stacom, Founder and CEO, Stacom CRE; and Robert Knakal, Chairman and CEO, BK Real Estate Advisors.

Despite the challenges outlined throughout the program, the event closed with a sense of optimism and belief that the scaling of conversions in NYC is possible, if the right policies and incentives are in place.



Kramer Levin Celebrates the 25th Anniversary of Brooklyn Legal Services Externship

In January, Kramer Levin celebrated the 25th anniversary of its Brooklyn Legal Services (BLS) externship. Since 1998, the firm has maintained an Attorney Service Program in which attorneys are assigned to staff a full-time legal services position representing low-income clients for a period of four months. More than 50 Kramer Levin externs have represented hundreds of low-income families and individuals in housing, immigration and family law matters, making an important contribution to meeting their legal needs while gaining terrific hands-on experience.

In celebration of the 25th anniversary, Director of Professional Development and Pro Bono Programs **Jamie Porco** organized a panel moderated by partner **Aaron Frankel** during which former externs spoke about the impact their experiences at BLS had on their careers. Panelists included partner **Jeffrey Trachtman** and associates **Genevieve Burger-Weiser**, **Alex Gelb**, **Danielle Moody**, **Jonaki Singh** and **Shaked Sivan**.



Awards and Recognitions

For a complete look at all awards and recognitions, please visit our [website](#)!

Kramer Levin To Be Honored by Brooklyn Defender Services at 2024 Family Defense Benefit



Kramer Levin is one of the honorees of Brooklyn Defender Services' 2024 Family Defense Benefit, being held June 10, 2024. Litigation special counsel **Karen Steinberg Kennedy** and associate **Drew Zagami** are accepting the award on the firm's behalf for their **successful representation of a pro bono client** in the Appellate Division, Second Department, obtaining a reversal of a summary judgment decision. The firm is also being recognized for its longstanding commitment to Brooklyn Defender Services.



David Berg Recognized for Board Service to Reading Partners



Reading Partners New York City hosted their annual benefit, The Next Chapter, honoring the organization's founding board members. Corporate partner **David Berg** was among the esteemed group of advisory board members recognized for their dedication and service over the last 10 years.

The event was attended by a number of Kramer Levin partners, including Corporate partner **John Bessonette**, Banking and Finance partners **Gilbert Liu** and **Laurence Pettit**, and Executive Compensation and Employee Benefits partner **Marissa Holob**.



AJC Honors Kenneth Eckstein With National Human Relations Award

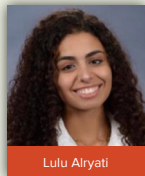


On Thursday, May 2, partner **Kenneth Eckstein** and Joshua Abramson of PJT Partners were honored with the American Jewish Committee (AJC)'s prestigious National Human Relations Award. The award was presented at the AJC Financial Services Division Reception at the Pierre Hotel in recognition of Ken's and Josh's achievements in business and philanthropy, and their commitment to strengthen AJC's urgent advocacy.

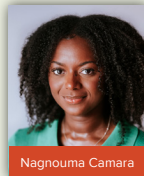


Racial Justice Initiative Scholars

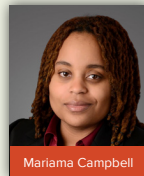
In keeping with our commitment to diversity and inclusion, we offer a Racial Justice Initiative Scholars (RJI Scholars) program for 1L law students at select New York City law schools. Kramer Levin is proud to introduce our 2024 scholars.



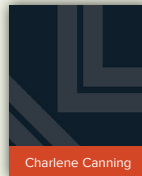
Lulu Airyati



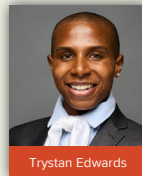
Nagnouma Camara



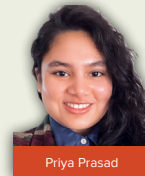
Mariama Campbell



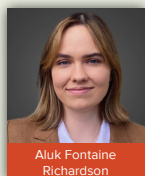
Charlene Canning



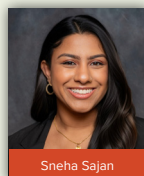
Trystan Edwards



Priya Prasad



Aluk Fontaine Richardson



Sneha Sajan



Sanjana Singh



Chloé Quinn Sotomayor



Jalen Wright



Yanghe Zhou



Reminder

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Alumni LinkedIn Group

Join our official **alumni network** on LinkedIn, where former Kramer Levin lawyers and staff can stay in touch with the firm, connect with each other and learn about professional development opportunities.