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UPCOMING EVENTS

Alden J. “Butch” Carpenter Memorial Scholarship BLSA Banquet: March 11, 2006

Covington & Burling is a Gold Patron at the 28th Annual Alden J. “Butch” Carpenter Memorial Scholarship Banquet sponsored by the University of Michigan Black Law Students’ Alliance. The scholarship is awarded to three outstanding first-year BLSA member law students who have demonstrated a commitment to community development. The event is being held in Ann Arbor, Michigan on Saturday, March 11, 2006. Attorneys Tom Williamson, Christopher Moody, and Brent Starks will attend.

Catalyst Awards Dinner: March 16, 2006

Covington will be a sponsor at the Annual Catalyst Awards Dinner chaired by Steve Ballmer, CEO of Microsoft Corporation. The dinner will be held at the Waldorf Astoria in New York and will honor the recipients of the 2006 Catalyst Award: BP, p.l.c.; The Chubb Corporation; and Safeway, Inc. The Catalyst Award is presented annually to companies and firms with outstanding initiatives that result in women’s career development and advancement.

National Asian Pacific American Bar Association Conference: March 18, 2006

The firm will sponsor the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association Southeast Regional Conference this year, to be held on March 18 at the National Press Club in Washington, DC.

DC Women Lawyers’ Annual Dinner: March 28, 2006

This annual event will be held on March 28th at Butterfield 9 for the women attorneys in the Washington office.

RECENT EVENTS

Black Law Students Association, Meet the 1Ls Mixer: February 15, 2006

On February 15, 2006, Wendy Feng attended the UC Hastings Black Law Students Association’s (BLSA) First Annual “Meet the 1Ls Mixer.” The goal of the event was to foster an environment in which BLSA 1Ls could not only gain valuable information about legal organizations in the Bay Area who value diversity, but also develop mentor-like relationships.

Asian American Legal Defense & Education Fund, Lunar New Year Gala: February 2, 2006

Covington & Burling was a sponsor of the AALDEF Lunar New Year Gala at which our former partner Ivan Fong, who is now the chief legal officer of Cardinal Health, received a 2006 Justice in Action Award.

GAYLAW Annual Awards Dinner: December 9, 2005

Covington & Burling was a sponsor of the Thirteenth Annual GAYLAW Awards Dinner. Individual honorees included Robert Spagnoletti, attorney general for the District of Columbia, and Phyllis Bossin, a family law attorney and former chair of the American Bar Association Section of Family Law. Wanda Alston, who directed the DC Mayor’s Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Affairs, was recognized posthumously with the Distinguished GLBT Community Award, presented by former National Organization for Women president Patricia Ireland.

DC Minority Attorney Networking Series: December 1, 2005

Covington & Burling continues to be an active sponsor of the DC Minority Attorney Networking Series, an initiative designed to provide minority attorneys in the DC area with opportunities for networking, mentoring and professional development. The group held a networking event on December 1, 2005 at the Fairmont Hotel. The next event will be held later this spring.

Lavender Law Conference: October 27, 2005

Covington & Burling was a Gold Sponsor of the 2005 Lavender Law Career Fair, held in San Diego on October 27, 2005. More than 50 other employers participated in the career fair, which was held during the National Lesbian and Gay Law Association's annual Lavender Law conference. Associate David Stetson went to the career fair to staff the Covington table, and talked with dozens of law students interested in Covington during the course of the day. Next year's conference and career fair will be held in Washington, DC.

If you have an event to be included in the next issue of Diversity Update, please contact [Lauren Soroka](#).

PUBLIC SERVICE

Women's Forum Pro Bono Initiative

In connection with this initiative, eight attorneys attended training on January 19 at Covington & Burling's D.C. office given by the Tahirih Justice Center. Tahirih attorneys instructed participants on the process of obtaining immigration relief under the Violence Against Women Act for immigrant women and girls who are the victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse or trafficking. Nell McCarthy and Stephanie Jillian have taken on new clients. Julie Edmond and Jennifer Johnson will be supervising these representations, and if you are interested in participating, please contact one of them.

Organization of Chinese Americans ("OCA")

The firm recently took on added responsibilities to the Organization of Chinese Americans, a national Asian Pacific American civil rights organization. Robert Wone will serve as outside general counsel and as a member of OCA's executive council.

If you have public service information to be included in the next issue of Diversity Update, please contact [Ariadna Vazquez](#).

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

National Association of Women Lawyers ("NAWL")

Attorneys from the DC office plan to attend on March 2-3 a NAWL networking program and luncheon focusing on Effective Techniques for Advancing Women Lawyers to the Top. If you are interested in attending, please contact Lee Tiedrich or Christine Enemark. Visit the NAWL website at <http://www.abanet.org/nawl>.

Women's Bar Association ("WBA")

The firm is a Gold Sponsor of WBA's Initiative on the Advancement and Retention of Women. This four-part series is aimed at evaluating factors affecting the recruitment and retention of women in the practice of law. The first part of the Initiative, "The Experts Present the Research," was held on January 6, 2006. The second part, "What Are the Stumbling Blocks to Improving the Advancement of Women?" was held on February 14, 2006. If you are interested in participating in this WBA Initiative, please contact [Lee Tiedrich](#) or [Laurie Self](#). Visit the WBA's website at <http://www.wbadc.org/>.

Hispanic National Bar Association ("HNBA")

In connection with the 30th Annual HNBA conference in Washington, DC, the firm recently hosted an event organized by the Latino Section of the Harvard Law School Alumni Association. The event was arranged by DC associate Katherine Gongora and was well-attended by Latino Harvard alumni in town for the conference. Visit the HNBA's website at <http://www.hnba.com>.

DC Road Show Program

Covington continues to be a leader in the Road Show program, which encourages African American law students to explore law firm opportunities in DC. Michael St. Patrick Baxter coordinates the program, and DC associates Chris Moody and Keir Gumbs will serve as coordinators for the program's events at Michigan and Penn, respectively, in 2006.

Ebony Magazine's Young Leaders

Former summer associate and incoming associate Raqiyyah Pippins was selected as one of Ebony Magazine's 2006 Young Leaders of the Future. The feature, which appears in the magazine's February 2006 issue, recognizes thirty young Black men and women who are rising stars in the areas of law, politics, religion, communications, academia, music, arts and entertainment.

If you have professional activities information to be included in the next issue of Diversity Update, please contact [Hrishi Karthikeyan](#).

C&B COMMITTEES

Women's Forum

On Saturday, November, 5, the DC Women's Forum sponsored an event in conjunction with DC Habitat for Humanity/Capital Women Build - an initiative designed to demonstrate the power of women in the nation's capital to build homes and foster community. On that day, a group of lawyers from the firm spent the day at the local Habitat site helping permanent volunteers with the current housing construction project. The site, at 55th and Clay NE is a 3+ acre site that used to be DC public housing which one day will hold more than 50 Habitat homes. In addition to a financial contribution from the firm, volunteers worked from 8:15 to 4:00 performing basic construction tasks under the guidance of Americorps volunteers who spend a year at the site. Another group provided lunch to all of the volunteers.

Program on Building Client Relationships: On January 26, the DC Office Women's Forum hosted a three-hour program for DC Women Attorneys focusing on building client relationships. This widely attended and interactive program was conducted by Felice Wagner of Sugarcrest Development Corp, and addressed such issues as understanding business and client development cycles and identifying different models and approaches for successfully building a practice. The San Francisco women attorneys participated in part of the program via video conference.

The Women's Forum will be joined on Thursday, February 23 by Rebecca Diaz-Bonilla, a former adjunct professor at the University of Virginia law school who specializes in oral advocacy training. Ms. Diaz-Bonilla conducted a Women's Forum program last summer focused on oral advocacy skills for women lawyers. She will be teaming up with Deirdre Christin to discuss strategies for effectively introducing ourselves in various business settings.

Work-Family Balance Group

The Work-Family Balance Group will be hosting a discussion on March 1, 2006 about estate planning issues led by DC attorneys Doris Blazek-White and Irene Estrada. This group provides a forum for all interested attorneys to discuss issues relating to balancing work and family obligations.

SPONSORSHIPS

Covington & Burling has recently provided financial support to the following student organizations: Columbia BLSA, Harvard APALSA, Harvard BLSA, Michigan BLSA, NBLSA, NYU BLAPA, Penn APALSA, Penn BLSA, Stanford BLSA.

Covington & Burling Diversity Committee
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The Committee welcomes feedback and comments the Diversity Update.
Please contact [Mike Labson](#) or [Linda Goldstein](#) if you have suggestions for future editions.