



WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION
of the District of Columbia

*Stars
of the
Bar*

SEPTEMBER 20 | 6-8 PM | D.C. BAR HEADQUARTERS

Stars of the Bar

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

Welcome and Remarks

Kandis Gibson, WBA President

WBA Foundation

Kirsten Wilkerson, WBA Foundation President

Mussey-Gillett Shining Star Award

Bridgette Stumpf, Executive Director, Network for Victim Recovery of DC (NVRDC)
Presented by Candace Beck, WBA Immediate Past President

Stars of the Bar

Rawle Andrews, Jr., Executive Director, American Psychiatric Association Foundation
Presented by Chiara Tondi Resta, Co-Chair, Stars of the Bar Committee

Nicole Cober, Principal Managing Partner, Cober Johnson and Romney
Presented by Chiara Tondi Resta, Co-Chair, Stars of the Bar Committee

Jessica Herrera-Flanigan, Partner, Monument Advocacy
Presented by Gaffar Chowdhury, Co-Chair, Stars of the Bar Committee

Esther Lim, Partner, Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, L.L.P.
Presented by Gaffar Chowdhury, Co-Chair, Stars of the Bar Committee

Elaine Spector, Partner, Harrity & Harrity, LLP
Presented by Kandis Gibson, WBA President

Closing Remarks

Kandis Gibson, WBA President

Networking & Meet the Committee and Forum Co-Chairs



WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION of the District of Columbia

MISSION

The Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia was founded in 1917 to maintain the honor and integrity of the profession; to promote the administration of justice; to advance and protect the interests of women lawyers; to promote their mutual improvement; and to encourage a spirit of friendship among our members.

THE WBA

- Organizes programs that provide significant opportunities for networking, educational advancement, and personal enrichment, particularly for women lawyers
- Promotes its members as leaders of the legal community and, through executive and judicial endorsements, opens the door to appointments to the federal and local bench and high-level executive positions
- Publishes a newsletter, *Raising the Bar*, which covers current issues and trends of interests to women lawyers, and provides a vehicle for spotlighting the accomplishments of WBA members
- Provides a powerful network that will yield lasting friendships and valuable professional contacts
- Engages in and promotes community service activities
- Supports the WBA Foundation, which leverages the generosity of lawyers and friends to support nonprofits that serve the legal and related needs of women and girls in the DC metropolitan community



STARS OF THE BAR

Each year, the WBA selects star-quality honorees to recognize at this event, which also kicks off our program year. This year, in support of our 2023-2024 bar year theme, "Leading Forward," we are honoring Champions of Women – those in our community advocating for women lawyers and women in leadership. Since its inception, the WBA has been advocating for women's proper place in the legal profession and has celebrated women's successes and triumphs. We are, once again, honoring our trailblazers.



Rawle Andrews Jr., Esq.

Executive Director, American Psychiatric Association Foundation

Rawle leads the APA Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the American Psychiatric Association, the oldest medical association in the U.S. and the largest psychiatric association in the world. The Foundation's mission is to promote the mental health and wellbeing of individuals and communities. Rawle is a member of the APA Executive Team. Before joining the APA Foundation, Rawle served on AARP's national leadership team in various roles over a 15-year stint. He practiced law for 16 years before joining AARP.

He served as the 135th president of the Bar Association of the District of Columbia (BADC) during the 2022-2023 bar year. He is a board member of the Thurgood Marshall Center Trust; an adjunct professor at Georgetown University and the Howard University School of Law; and the national chair of the public policy committee of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Rawle's community impact awards include three Gold Telly Awards and one Silver Anthem Award in 2023 for mental health advocacy and education efforts; the 2022 Charles Hamilton Houston Award from the DC Courts; a 2018 Distinguished Healthcare Leadership Award from the National Association of Health Services Executives (NAHSE); a 2016 National Humanitarian Award from the National Association of Black Veterans (NABVETS); and the 2006 Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year Award from the D.C. Bar.

Rawle earned a J.D., *cum laude*, from the Howard University School of Law, a B.A. in Psychology from Texas Southern University, and an executive leadership certificate from the Georgetown University McDonough School of Business.



Nicole Cober, Esq.

Principal Managing Partner, Cober Johnson & Romney

Nicole is an executive coach and business strategist who specializes in developing management, legal, and branding strategies for leaders in the business world. She is an author, a media influencer and contributor, and an advocate for women's empowerment and small business growth. She helps other women grow their businesses, become leaders in the industry, and maintain a healthy balance in their personal and professional lives.

She provides clients with a blueprint for gaining business clarity, portraying and positioning authentic brands, and legally protecting those brands, intellectual properties, and creative works.

She is a presidential appointee to the National Women's Business Council, a bipartisan council that advises the White House, Congress, and the SBA on matters concerning women in business.

Her podcast, *CEOs & Soul Talk*, was produced at the National Press Club with esteemed guests such as WPO's Founder Marsha Firestone, NWBC Chair Liz Sara, Betty Hines, and SBA Associate Administrator Allen Gutierrez. Cober's book, *CEOs & Soul Talk*, was published in 2016 and blends valuable business advice with true accounts of relationships struggles, family triumphs, and self-reflection.

In 2022, Nicole founded The BOW Collective, an organization of the nation's top 50 black women small business owners who come together to partner on contracts, capital, and communications initiatives.

Nicole graduated with a B.A. from University of California, Berkeley and a J.D., *cum laude*, from Howard University School of Law.



Jessica Herrera-Flanigan, Esq.
Partner, Monument Advocacy

At Monument Advocacy, Jessica provides strategic advisory services, public affairs, and public policy support to corporate executives. Before rejoining Monument, she served as Vice President, Public Policy & Philanthropy, Americas, where she was a member of its senior leadership team and oversaw all public policy and government relations for the company's headquarters, the U.S., Canada, Latin America, and Brazil, as well as Twitter's global social impact efforts and philanthropic initiatives.

Previously, she was the Executive Vice President of Government & Corporate Affairs at Univision Communications, managing all global government affairs and regulatory strategy, as well as third-party engagement, philanthropy, corporate social responsibility, sustainability, and policy communications functions. She also served as the Founder and President of the Univision Foundation.

Prior to her work in the private sector, Jessica was the Staff Director & General Counsel of the House Committee on Homeland Security, where she managed a 50+ staff and \$18 million budget while directing, supervising, and managing the activities of the Committee responsible for overseeing the then-fledgling DHS. She was the first Latina to serve as a staff director for a Congressional Committee. Previously, she was Senior Counsel at the U.S. Justice Department's Computer Crime & IP Section, where she led teams of prosecutors specializing in the investigation and prosecution of cybercrimes and represented the U.S. government internationally. She also served as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney at the D.C. U.S. Attorney's Office, handling fraud and public corruption cases.

Jessica has taught cybersecurity, cybercrime, and criminal law at several universities and has written numerous publications on security, technology, and cyber-related matters. She began her career as a communications, government contracts, intellectual property, and energy lawyer.

Jessica serves on the Boards of the Peabody Awards and Regis University, as well as on the Advisory Board of the University of California National Center For Free Speech & Civic Engagement and the Honorary Degrees Committee of Yale University. She recently served as the Chairwoman of the Board of Directors for the U.S. Center for SafeSport, an independent 501c(3) authorized by law to respond to sexual abuse and misconduct allegations within the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Movement.

Jessica graduated with a B.A. in American Studies from Yale University and a J.D. from Harvard Law School.



Esther Lim

Partner & Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, LLP

Esther has over 25 years of experience in patent litigation and counseling. Esther oversees Finnegan’s diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) strategies, initiatives, and goals. She served as the founding managing partner of the firm’s Shanghai office. Esther served as a law clerk to the Honorable Randall Rader at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

Esther has advocated for DEI in the legal profession through active bar leadership for many associations. Over 20 years ago, as the president of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of DC, Esther created the Women’s Forum and the Practicing Attorneys’ Resources to provide resources, mentoring, and practice support for women and diverse attorneys. Those programs continue to this day. She also co-chaired the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association’s Women’s Leadership Committee to champion, celebrate, and support women lawyers of color.

Esther is past president of the D.C. Bar. She is the first immigrant to serve in that position and the first-ever Korean American state bar president in the continental U.S. Esther is active in pro bono representation and volunteers at walk-in legal clinics. During Esther’s presidency, she established the D.C. Bar’s Pro Bono Task Force to address the critical unmet legal needs of the D.C. residents with a coalition of leaders from the D.C. courts, legal services providers, and the Bar. She currently co-chairs the D.C. Bar’s Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Task Force to provide thought leadership on, and make recommendations relating to, D.C. Bar-wide projects and initiatives designed to enhance DEI in the legal profession and the community.

Since 2003, she has taught as an adjunct professor at Howard University School of Law and is the patent program chair of its annual IP & Social Justice conference. She has been recognized by the Howard University School of Law with the IP & Social Justice Award for her contributions in promoting diversity in the legal profession and mentoring students of color.

Esther received the Corporate Counsel’s Women Influence & Power in Law Award for Innovative Leadership and the World IP Review’s Diversity Champion Award. Esther is a Life Fellow of the American Bar Association. Esther was recognized as a leader in the field of intellectual property law by *Chambers Asia*, and as one of the Top 250 Women in IP Law by *Managing Intellectual Property*.

Esther graduated with a B.A, summa cum laude, in Computer Science and Mathematics from Towson University and a J.D. from University of Maryland School of Law.



Elaine Spector, Esq.
Partner, Harrity & Harrity, LLP

Elaine is a patent attorney with over 25 years of experience in intellectual property law. She is the first female partner in Harrity & Harrity's history. Her current practice consists primarily of prosecuting patent applications with a focus on electromechanical and software-based technologies, and she currently leads the Prosecution Team at the firm. She also co-chairs Harrity's Diversity Committee and is dedicated to improving diversity in the field of patent law.

Elaine is dedicated to improving diversity in the field of patent law through her numerous diversity leadership roles. She hosts *Driving Diversity*, a weekly diversity vlog, sharing diversity-related tips and FAQs, as well as quarterly webinars in a series called *Diversity Dialogue*, as part of Harrity's Diversity Channel. She serves as vice chair of the Intellectual Property Owners Association (IPO) Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and co-chairs the IPO D&I Outreach Subcommittee.

She is a founding member of the nonprofit Patent Pathways™, a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to increasing numbers of registered Black women patent attorneys and agents through free, virtual education, practical exercises, and financial support. The goal is to provide each participant with the tools to take and pass the patent bar and begin their pathway into a career in patent law without the financial burden.

Elaine graduated with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from University of Maryland, College Park and a J.D. from University of Baltimore School of Law.

MUSSEY - GILLETT SHINING STAR AWARD

The Women's Bar Association established the Mussey-Gillett Shining Star Award in 2007 to recognize WBA members who, through their vision and sustained and unflagging dedication to the WBA or to WBA committees and forums, have made extraordinary contributions that have advanced the mission of the association in the best tradition of leadership exemplified by the WBA's Founders, Ellen Spencer Mussey and Emma Gillett. Each year, our immediate Past President selects a member who has epitomized the principles set forth by our founders. This year's awardee is Bridgette Stumpf.



Bridgette Stumpf, Esq.

Executive Director, Network for Victim Recovery of DC (NVRDC)

Bridgette co-founded NVRDC in 2012. She has over 15 years of experience advocating to ensure those impacted by crime are afforded meaningful rights and access to supportive services to mitigate the negative effects of trauma post-victimization.

Bridgette grew NVRDC from a \$200,000 startup budget to over \$7,000,000 in annual revenue today, which supports a team of 45 advocates, therapists, and attorneys who have served more than 8,000 survivors since the organization's founding. Bridgette frequently participates in local and national policy conversations around victims' issues—providing expertise to members of the U.S. Congress to increase the transparency of sexual assault prosecutions and to the DC Council to enhance the rights of crime victims. Several landmark laws have resulted from these efforts.

Bridgette serves on the review board for Department of Defense's Sexual Assault Advocacy Certification Program. She also served as an appointed member to DC's Crime Victims' Compensation Committee for five years and was a Negotiator for the Department of Education's Rulemaking Committee charged with implementing changes made to the Clery Act through the VAWA Reauthorization of 2013.

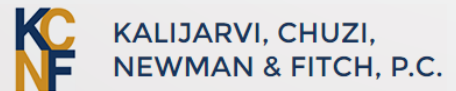
This past year, Bridgette led a talking session following the Dobbs decision, allowing our members to connect with one another about how to cope in the aftermath and to provide techniques to deal with both our pain and the action needed. She moderated our "50 Years of Title IX" panel, adding to the discussion the non-sports-related importance of the law and its status in colleges and universities re: sexual assault, discrimination, and violence. She played an instrumental part in our Well-Being Conference, participating as an attendee and as a panelist, discussing initiatives and collaboration for authentic advancement of well-being in the law and in our community. As one of our original members of the WBA's Advocacy Committee, she has played an important role in our efforts on behalf of women lawyers, including drafting an op ed on diversifying litigators at the U.S. Supreme Court.

Bridgette graduated with a B.A. in Communication Arts from Hood College and a J.D. from University of Baltimore School of Law.

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**ELLEN SPENCER
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EMMA GILLETT

Named after our founders, Ellen Spencer Mussey and Emma M. Gillett, this sponsorship level provides dedicated individual members the opportunity to support the success and financial sustainability of the WBA. For those individuals who already give so much to the WBA, the Founders Sponsorship provides a targeted giving opportunity, and a mechanism for the WBA to recognize its high contributing individuals.

THANK YOU TO OUR MUSSEY-GILLETT FOUNDERS SPONSORS

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MEMBERSHIP

By joining the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia, you make a statement in support of advancing women in the legal profession and demonstrate your commitment to promoting the welfare of all women in the community. The WBA provides a synergy that can enhance your career on many levels.

Whether you are looking to increase your professional visibility through WBA leadership positions, to take advantage of the many personal and professional development opportunities, or simply to network with colleagues, the WBA can meet your needs. WBA memberships run on anniversary dates: your membership will need to be renewed one year from the date you joined.

Learn more at wbadc.org/join.

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