

## KMK Law Hosts Fourth Annual Diversity Case Competition



On January 14 & 15, 2022, KMK Law, in partnership with the University of Cincinnati College of Law's Center for Professional Development, hosted the fourth annual Diversity Case Competition for first year minority law students – the nation's first and only competition of its kind. This year the competition, which was held virtually, was comprised of 11 teams from 6 area law schools: Case Western Reserve University Law School, Salmon P. Chase College of Law, Northern Kentucky University, University of Cincinnati College of Law, University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law, University of Louisville Louis D. Brandies School of Law, and The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law.

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

"When we started this competition, we not only wanted to create a meaningful experience for the law students, but also wanted to make real, impactful advancements in diversity and inclusion at KMK Law and in the legal industry as a whole in Cincinnati," said Bethany P. Recht, KMK Partner and Co-Chair of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee. "In just the first four years of the competition, KMK Law has hired several minority law student

competitors for the positions of summer associate, law clerk and associate, and former competitors are also receiving law student job opportunities from our clients who serve as judges for the competition."



This year's program opened with guest speaker Jaia Thomas, a Walnut Hills alum who now works as a sports and entertainment attorney. Thomas is the founder of Diverse Representation, an organization focused on increasing the exposure and number of African-American agents, attorneys, managers, and publicists who work in the sports and entertainment industry.

The program also included Dean Verna Williams from the University of Cincinnati College of Law who spoke about the success of the annual Case Competition and the significance of the competition being held on Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend. ⏪

### Cash prizes were awarded to the following teams:

#### First Place (\$3,000)

University of Cincinnati College of Law  
*Alexandria Anderson and Justeen Jackson*

#### Second Place (\$2,000)

University of Cincinnati College of Law  
*Aqdas Khudadad and Kelze' Riley*

#### Third Place (\$1,000)

Salmon P. Chase College of Law, Northern Kentucky University  
*Jarvis Graham and Maiya Lane*

# KMK Law Hosts Antisemitism Training Program

On November 8, 2021, KMK Law hosted a special luncheon training opportunity for all KMK attorneys and staff presented by the Nancy and David Wolf Holocaust and Humanity Center and the Jewish Community Relations Council of Cincinnati, which facilitated important, relevant lessons about antisemitism today and how individuals can take a stand against it.

Hate at Home: Antisemitism and Why it Matters Today explored how antisemitism has changed over time. From the Holocaust in Europe to contemporary antisemitism and hate at home in Ohio, this program inspired attendees to combat antisemitism and other forms of extremism in their own communities. Recently released crime data shows hate crimes at a 16-year high, according to the FBI. The most recent study



on antisemitism by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) shows that the number of incidents in 2019 were the highest

since they began reporting in 1979. Ohio is not immune to this current trend. Antisemitism on both sides of the ideological spectrum, exhibited in new and sometimes deadly ways, demands that communities find ways to combat it. One of the best approaches to combating it is to build allies and an understanding that hate against one group of people impacts us all.

In follow up to the antisemitism training program, on January 27, 2022, KMK Law recognized International Holocaust Remembrance Day—the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau—on which the world remembers the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust. On the eve of that Day of Remembrance, KMK attorneys and staff were invited to virtually attend the Holocaust Speaker Series presented by the Nancy & David Wolf Holocaust & Humanity Center, in partnership with the Harriet and Kenneth Kupferberg Holocaust Center and Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage, featuring Eva Schloss—the neighbor and posthumous stepsister of Anne Frank. <<

## Thanks, Kudos & Congratulations!



### Director of Legal Talent & Diversity – Kate Christoff

Kate Christoff joined KMK Law in November 2021 to lead the firm's legal recruiting, professional development, and diversity initiatives. To recognize the immediate impact she has made in carrying out the firm's Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan, KMK Law is pleased to announce that Kate has been appointed as the firm's first Director of Legal Talent & Diversity.

### 2022 FBA PLEDGE Award Recipients Amanda Stubblefield Burton and Melissa S. Matthews

The Gender Equity Task Force of the John W. Peck Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky Chapter of the Federal Bar Association have recognized its third class of PLEDGE award recipients, including KMK litigation attorneys Amanda Stubblefield Burton and Melissa S. (Mel) Matthews.



Amanda and Mel are two of eight women lawyers recognized as emerging leaders in the local federal bar. PLEDGE—Promoting Lawyer Excellence & Driving Gender Equity—is a program developed to place a spotlight on the professional successes of exceptional woman lawyers in the greater Cincinnati area at a critical point in their careers. The honorees were selected for their notable legal experience, exceptional legal talent and skill, professionalism, and commitment to their workplaces and communities.

### Board of Trustees Appointments Shannon D. Lawson

Congratulations to Shannon Lawson who was recently elected to the Board of Trustees for the Greater Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky African American Chamber of Commerce. Shannon was also recently elected to the 2022 Board of Trustees for the Cincinnati Bar Association, term ending in 2024.



# KMK Law is Proud to Support:

## KMK Celebrates International Women's Day

On Tuesday, March 8, 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:

**Cookies & Cards:** Cookies baked by a local female baker, Annie Hungler, were provided by the KMK Women's Initiative Committee. All were encourage to take a cookie and write a "Letter of Love" to help Cradle Cincinnati support the new and expectant mothers in our city. Cradle Cincinnati was founded in 2012 as a collaborative effort between parents, caregivers, healthcare professionals, and community members with a commitment to reduce infant mortality in our community.

**Clothing Donations:** The firm also collected and donated women's and men's clothing in support of Dress for Success and the Bearcat Pantry at UC Law.



## KMK Law Seeks Mansfield Rule Certification

KMK Law is pleased to announce that it is participating in the 2022-2023 Mansfield Rule Certification cohort for Midsize Firms, which is a national initiative designed to increase representation of historically underrepresented lawyers in law firm leadership. This is part of the firm's ongoing commitment to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace.

The Mansfield Rule, which is administered by the Diversity Lab, has become the standard by which law firms track and measure whether they have affirmatively considered at least 30% women, attorneys of color, LGBTQ+ attorneys, and attorneys with disabilities for a variety of roles, including partner promotions, lawyer hires, client pitches/formal client meetings, and leadership positions.



## Our Daily Bread Service Project #KMKCares

KMK attorneys and staff prepared more than 500 sandwiches to donate to Our Daily Bread. Our Daily Bread (ODB) in Cincinnati's largest soup kitchen. In 2021, ODB served more than 160,000 meals, and 100% of the food served was donated or rescued.



## KMK Law Joins The Abercrombie Group In Celebrating The 2021 Men of Honor

On November 14, 2021, KMK Law was proud to once again 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 the following: S. Gregory Baker, Retired Director of Police Community Relations, City of Cincinnati and University of Cincinnati; Kala Gibson, Executive Vice President, Head of Business Banking, & Chief Enterprise Corporate Responsibility Officer, Fifth Third Bank; David Jones, Co-Founder, President & Chief Executive Officer, CastleOak Securities; Rev. Damon Lynch, III, Pastor, New Prospect Baptist Church; and Dr. Thomas Shockley, Corporate Medical Director & Orthopedic Surgeon, TriHealth Orthopedic & Sports Institute.

## Diversity Fellowship Program Recipients

KMK Law is pleased to announce the 2022 recipients of the KMK Law Diversity Fellowship.



**Kelsey Hammon**  
University of Louisville  
Louis D. Brandies School of Law



**Kelze' Riley**  
University of Cincinnati  
College of Law

# 2022 KMK Law Summer Associates

KMK Law is pleased to welcome the KMK Law Class of 2022 Summer Associates.

## 1L Class



**Sydney Auteri**

Salmon P. Chase College of Law,  
Northern Kentucky University



**Chris Colloton**

University of Cincinnati  
College of Law



**Graydon Cowan**

The University of Texas  
School 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

## 2L Class



**Kennedy Brooks**

University of Louisville  
Louis D. Brandies School of Law



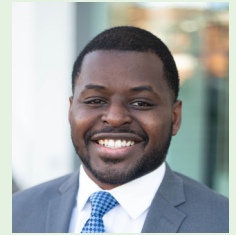
**Lauren Green**

The Ohio State University  
Moritz College of Law



**Hunter Hardy**

University of Cincinnati  
College of Law



**Kenneth McQueen, Jr.**

University of Kentucky  
J. David Rosenberg College of Law

## 2022 Diversity Committee & Women's Initiative Committee

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

### Diversity Committee

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

Kate Christoff  
Shannon Lawson  
Lori Moser  
Claire Parrish

Adrienne Roach  
Meribeth Sewell  
Jason Stitt  
Allie Westfall

### Women's Initiative Committee

Sophia Holley (Co-Chairperson)  
Darcy Watt (Co-Chairperson)

Mike Cappel  
Kate Christoff  
Sarah Vonderbrink Geiger  
Mary Ellen Malas

Caroline Musekamp  
Adrienne Roach  
Antoinette Schindel

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