

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION SUMMIT



Diversity & Inclusion Summit Committee

Christine Jean-Louis

Chair, Diversity and Inclusion
Summit Committee
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President, Connecticut Bar Association
US Attorney's Office

Cecil J. Thomas

Vice President, Connecticut Bar
Association
Greater Hartford Legal Aid Inc.

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Association

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Director of Diversity and Human
Resources, Connecticut Bar Association

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Editorial and Communications Associate,
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Agenda At-A-Glance

Connecticut's Diversity & Inclusion Summit: The Collaborative Blueprint

Wednesday, October 23, 2019

Quinnipiac University School of Law

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Registration and Networking

9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Welcome Remarks

Brad Saxton, Interim Dean, Quinnipiac University School of Law

Christine Jean-Louis, Chair, Diversity and Inclusion Summit Committee

Ndidi N. Moses, President, Connecticut Bar Association

9:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Diversity and Inclusion: Forging a Path (This workshop is full.)*

Chris Armstrong and Vince Brantly, Veritas Culture, Washington, DC

How do we address longstanding retention and advancement issues without going back to the same wells? What is at the root of our inability to make meaningful and consistent headway? How do we spark a coalition of the willingness to lead change going forward in this important space? These are questions we ask and attempt to answer every year. This year, we're taking a different step. We are facilitating a dialogue that you will be the primary voice for. Think of it as a workshop on advancing diversity and inclusion that you will be the instructive voices behind! We are bringing in two nationally recognized diversity and inclusion and culture facilitators whose jobs will be to elicit your inputs, challenge your thinking, drive to root issues and root solutions, and ensure we walk out of the session with a way forward! The reality is, you know the landscape, you live the culture, you understand the challenges. As such, we need to let your ideas flow and your passions drive us to success. This is what a healthy movement looks like and we intend to harness just that.

12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Attendee Lunch and Networking

1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. The Employer's Role with Diverse Hires

E. Macey Russell, Choate Hall & Stewart LLP, Boston, MA

Attorney Russell's keynote address will provide insight into why law firms fail to mentor diverse attorneys, protect or shield them from microaggressions, or make them feel comfortable.

1:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. Signatory Data Collection Overview

Cecil J. Thomas, Vice President, Connecticut Bar Association

Attendees will be reintroduced to the goals of the collaborative pledge/plan, see results from data collection among the signatories, and receive a summary of the path to successful training initiatives discussed during signatory meetings.

1:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Hear Our Narratives**

Moderator

An-Ping Hsieh, Connecticut

Panelists

David R. Jimenez, Jackson Lewis PC, Hartford

Felice Gray-Kemp, Planet Alpha Corp, Cambridge, MA

James A. Merklinger, Association of Corporate Counsel, Washington, DC

Meghana D. Shah, Eversheds Sutherland, New York, NY

3:15 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Jonathan M. Shapiro, Immediate Past President, Connecticut Bar Association

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Networking Reception

CLE Credits

CT: 5.25 CT CLE (General)

* This workshop is full. To add your name to the waitlist, contact member services at msc@ctbar.org or (860)223-4400.

** Panelist and/or title are subject to change. Panelists were selected based on their broad array of individual experiences in different work environments within the legal profession.