



Chapter News & Updates



It is hard to believe six months have passed since the initial stay-home orders were issued. We probably thought life would be back to normal by now but many of us are still working from home and assisting our kids with virtual learning. With new challenges come new opportunities and our chapter has seized this occasion to bring more programming to our members.

Diversity

ACC Mid-America is collaborating with ACC St. Louis on some diversity initiatives. In June, we co-sponsored a CLE called *8 Minutes that Changed the World; How "I Can't Breathe" is Encouraging Conversation in the Workplace*. And in August, we held a book discussion on *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Robin DiAngelo. Our chapter will host another book discussion on October 21 on *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi. Our event will be facilitated by Ann Jenrette-Thomas, Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer at Stinson LLP.

Pro Bono

The Pro Bono Committee had been diligently planning another legal clinic for June 2020 when we were derailed by the pandemic. But the group was able to reassess the needs of the community and reach out to new partners to launch a virtual clinic for small businesses and nonprofits. We invite you to submit a volunteer application [here](#) to be matched with a Stinson attorney and a client.

Career Development

Recent fluctuations in the economy and changes in the job market have some of us examining our careers more closely. ACC Mid-America is partnering with The Lion Group, a legal recruiting firm, to present *Leveraging LinkedIn to Advance Your Career: A Three-Part Career Development Series*. The series will take place on November 3, 4, and 5.

More information about each of these upcoming events can be found below. While we are unable to see each other in person, we are happy to continue offering virtual events. In addition to those listed above, stay tuned for more to come.

In our last newsletter, I promised to highlight a diversity, equity and inclusion initiative. In seeking out the perfect story, I realized it was right in front of me. My company, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, launched a new Diversity Equity & Inclusion Council. In an article below, I spoke with my colleague, and ACC member, Olivea Myers, on her involvement with the Council.

I also promised pictures of our members' workstations so be sure to check out those submitted by our board members.

As always, feel free to reach out to me with any suggestions for services we might provide. And in the coming months, look for a member survey asking for your input as we plan for the coming year. I hope

everyone stays healthy and safe.

Best Regards,
Jennifer McAdam
2020 ACC Mid-America President
jmcadam@naic.org



Profile of Olivea Myers NAIC - Diversity & Inclusion Council

by Jennifer McAdam

In recent months, the business community has pledged increased resources to address the issue of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace. The National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) is one of the local companies that is responding to the call for justice and equality. In June, it announced the formation of the Diversity Equity & Inclusion Council and selected Legal Counsel, and ACC Mid-America member, Olivea Myers, as one of its members.

Olivea joined the NAIC Legal Division in 2019, coming from the Missouri Attorney General's Office. She graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 2016, where she served as Acquisitions

Editor of the Tennessee Journal of Race, Gender, & Social Justice and Secretary of the Black Law Students Association.

To foster a workplace that reflects and contributes to the diverse, global community in which it serves, the NAIC created the Council to work closely with senior leadership to jumpstart and manage the DE&I strategic priorities. Olivea explains the purpose of the Council is to "Uplift diverse voices and implement change."

Olivea understands the importance of diverse voices in the insurance sector better than most. Her mother, Chlora Lindley-Myers, serves as Director of the Missouri Department of Commerce and Insurance. Director Lindley-Myers is one of the only women of color serving in such a position nationally. Director Lindley-Myers was also recently elected to the Executive (EX) Committee of the NAIC as Secretary/Treasurer.

Olivea explains that the Council has thirteen members, including three co-chairs – one from each of the three NAIC offices (KC, DC, and NYC). Members were selected from a pool of 50 applicants, based on criteria including office location, department representation, race, gender, age, and tenure.

Olivea says she applied to the Council because, "Those that came before me advocated for diversity and inclusion so that I could have the opportunities that I have had in college, law school, and my career." She wants to continue that work to, "[I]ncrease awareness and acceptance of diversity and inclusion efforts and ultimately give opportunities to others."

The Council began meeting bi-weekly in July. While the Council has been working to set its own goals for the year, one of its first items of business was a directive to assist in hiring a Director of Diversity and Inclusion, a newly created position with the company. The Council's co-chairs were involved in the interviewing and selection process and the NAIC welcomed Evelyn Boswell in September. Ms. Boswell has more than 20 years of experience in Human Resources, leading Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in major Kansas City organizations.

Olivea says that other initiatives the Council will address next include establishing employee affinity groups and creating a plan to recruit and retain diverse employees. In fact, Olivea suggested targeting diverse candidates as the NAIC Legal Division hired its next interns. This was an easy way to increase the applicant pool just by e-mailing the career services staff and asking that the job posting be sent to diverse student groups.

Olivea looks forward to her tenure on the Council and hopes it will "[M]ake an evident and positive change in the NAIC's culture to put diversity, equity, and inclusion first so that we as an organization can better protect insurance consumers who come from all walks of life."

Implementing a Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Program

This information appeared in the CLE presentation, *Summer of Workplace Unrest: Disease, Diversity and Democracy*, by Shelley Ericsson of Ogletree Deakins.

Step 1: Plan the Program

- Before designing the D&I program, assess the organization's needs and goals
- Identify timelines, deliverables, and budget and create a D&I Plan
- Consider how leadership and management will be engaged at every step of the D&I initiative process

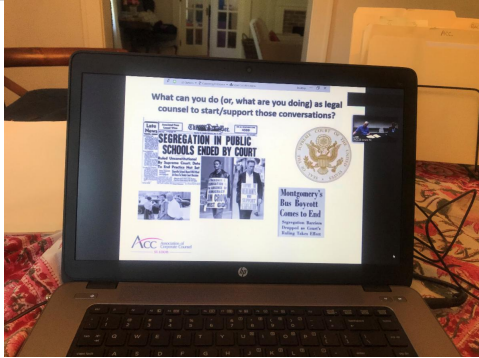
Step 2: Make a Compliant Program

- Incorporate legal compliance and risk reduction measures at the outset

Step 3: Design & Implement Program

- Address the specific need
- Define the purpose
- Decide who leads
- Ensure open participation

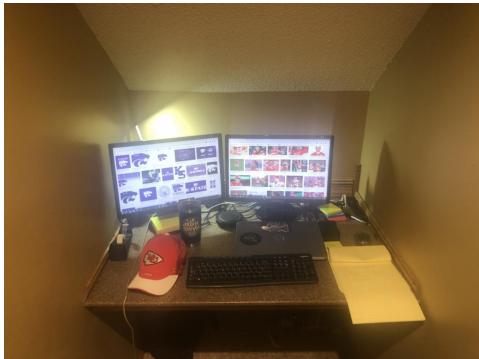
Work from home workstations



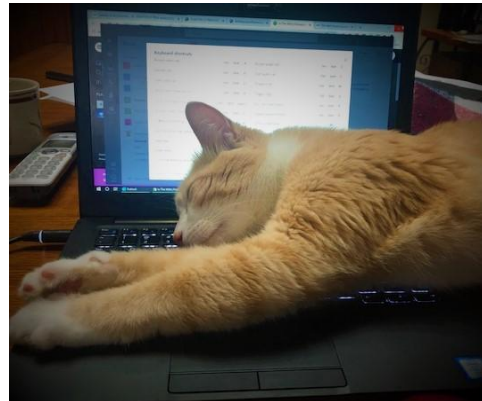
Jennifer McAdam



Janel Fuhrman



Andy Wimmer



Dawn Rogers



Emily Vljayakirthi



Charlene Wilson



Tim Waggoner



BOARD & COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED FOR THE ACC MID-AMERICA CHAPTER

The ACC Mid-America Chapter has openings for board and committee positions. Please click [here](#) to submit your areas of interest and qualifications. **The submission deadline is October 15, 2020.**

Candidates will be contacted via email after that date.

ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION GIVEAWAY



ACC Mid-America would like to send five members to the ACC Annual Meeting! This virtual meeting will be held October 12-16, 2020. Details about the event can be found [here](#).

Please click [here](#) by **September 30, 2020** to register for the giveaway. Winners will be drawn on October 1, 2020 and will be announced via email.



ACC MID-AMERICA CHAPTER PRO BONO COMMITTEE

Virtual Pro Bono Clinic for Small Businesses and Nonprofits

~ Volunteer Opportunity for ACC Members ~

Please join ACC Mid-America to volunteer for a virtual pro bono legal clinic for small businesses and nonprofits. In these rapidly changing times, many local businesses need help answering legal questions. ACC volunteers will be matched with an attorney from Stinson and a local Kansas or Missouri-based small business or nonprofit organization to provide limited legal representation on issues related to employment, insurance coverage, contracts, PPP loans, landlord and tenant matters, etc. You will be matched with the client based on your interest areas and/or expertise, as expressed in your application. You will receive information about the client and its questions ahead of the meeting. Once assigned a partnering attorney and client, you will schedule a short – one or two-hour conference call or virtual meeting. This will be a one-time clinic with no obligation for further assistance.

FORMS:

- To apply, please click [here](#) to submit your Pro Bono Attorney Volunteer Application.
- If you are an attorney working under a restricted license in Kansas and want to be considered for Kansas matters, please click [here](#) and complete the required Application and Affidavit for Authorization of Attorney pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 712B(e).

INFO SESSION:

If you would like more information about the virtual clinic prior to volunteering or completing an application, we have a link to a recording of the information session. Click [here](#) to view the recording.



DIVERSITY & INCLUSION BOOK CLUB

October 21, 2020 Save the Date! Diversity & Inclusion Book Club | How to Be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi, discussion facilitated by Ann Jenrette-Thomas, Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer with Stinson LLP, from 12- 1:30pm, co-sponsored by ACC St. Louis Chapter. Please click [here](#) to register.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

November 3, 4, and 5 Save the Date! Leveraging LinkedIn to Advance Your Career: A Three-Part Career Development Series, from 12-1pm, sponsored by The Lion Group.

UPCOMING CLE EVENTS

September 30, 2020 CLE | Double Jeopardy: A Game Show of Legal Ethics from 2:30-4:30pm, presented by Husch Blackwell, LLP. Please click [here](#) to register by September 25, 2020.

October 7, 2020 CLE | Don't Neglect the Boilerplate: Examining Contract Boilerplate and Why it Matters from 12-1pm, sponsored by Shook, Hardy & Bacon, LLP. Please click [here](#) to register by October 5, 2020.

October 28, 2020 CLE | *Save the Date!* Diversity Trailblazers from 12-1pm, sponsored by Stinson LLP. Registration information will be sent out soon!

November 11, 2020 CLE | *Save the Date!* This session is sponsored by Littler Mendelson P.C.

November 18, 2020 CLE | *Save the Date!* This session will be presented by Jackson Lewis P.C.

COVID-19 Resources

[ACC National COVID Resource Page](#)

[CDC.gov](#)

THANK YOU

ACC Mid-America would like to recognize and thank our 2020 sponsors. A list of those sponsors can be found [here](#).



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For questions please contact our Chapter Administrator, [Lori Beck](#) or Chapter Assistant, [Shakedra Knight](#).

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