



Pictured (left to right): Joe K. West (President & CEO of Minority Corporate Counsel Association), Kathleen LaValle (Jackson Walker partner and jw2 Women's Initiative Chair), Bruce Ruzinsky (Jackson Walker partner and Diversity Committee Chair), and Alesia Foster (Jackson Walker Diversity Coordinator).

Jackson Walker Awarded 2014 Thomas L. Sager Award for the South Region

Jackson Walker L.L.P. has been awarded the prestigious 2014 Thomas L. Sager Award for the South Region from the Minority Corporate Counsel Association (MCCA). The award is presented each year to law firms that have

demonstrated sustained commitment to improve the hiring, retention, and promotion of minority attorneys. One Sager Award is given in each of MCCA's five regions (Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, South, Midwest and West).

During the Sager Award ceremonies last month in Los Angeles, MCCA President Joe West cited Jackson Walker's finalist selection based on the following: "Since 2008, almost 50 percent of the firm's newly elected partners have been women and minorities, and Jackson Walker's most recent class of hires was 75 percent women and minorities. Nearly half of the firm's associates are women and more than a quarter of the associates are minorities. Of the 25 largest firms in Texas, Jackson Walker had the highest percentage of minority summer clerks, and the fifth highest percentage of women summer clerks in summer 2012. The 2013 summer class was 39 percent diverse." Jackson Walker was also recognized for its pipeline efforts. MCCA President Joe West also stated: "Jackson Walker is focusing on every level of the legal profession – from summer associate to new partner – and it is paying off."

Jackson Walker partner and Diversity Committee Chair Bruce Ruzinsky accepted the award on behalf of the firm at the MCCA's CLE Expo luncheon on March 12 in Los Angeles. During his acceptance remarks, Bruce spoke about the tremendous honor for Jackson Walker in receiving the

award. He also expressed his pride in Jackson Walker for the diversity achieved at the firm and noted that the firm will continue to seek ways to recruit, retain, and advance a diverse workforce while maintaining an inclusive environment. Jackson Walker partner and JW2 Women's Initiative Chair Kathleen LaValle and Diversity Coordinator Alesia Foster also attended the luncheon program.

This was the third consecutive year that Jackson Walker was named a Sager Award finalist for the South region. In addition to being honored as the 2014 Sager Award winner for the South region, the firm has received numerous accolades for its diversity efforts.





2014 WOMEN AND MINORITY PARTNER PROMOTIONS

Since 2008, almost 50 percent of the firm's newly elected partners have been either women or members of ethnic minorities. This year, over 60% of partner promotions were women and minorities. Pictured from left to right:



Nicole Brenning, Austin; Aron Burnett, Austin; Sara McEown, Dallas and Fort Worth; Nicole Metcalf, Dallas; Lauren Mutti, Dallas; Susan Koch, Houston, Lauren Ciminello, San Antonio.



HONORS AND RECOGNITION

Dallas Partner Suzan Kedron Selected as Jackson Walker Leadership Council on Legal Diversity (LCLD) Fellow for 2014

With 215 Members, LCLD is a national organization made up of the general counsel and managing partners of the leading corporations and law firms in the country. The LCLD Fellows program builds leadership skills and relationships. Jackson Walker has been a member of LCLD since 2012.



Suzan joins a class of more than 170 attorneys from around the country who have been selected as LCLD Fellows for 2014—the largest class in the program's history. Over the course of the year-long program, participants will be challenged to improve their professional brand, build relationships that enhance professional development, participate in corporate learning experiences, and sharpen stewardship and leadership skills.

Suzan joined Jackson Walker in 2003. She received her B.A. in Architecture from Columbia University and her J.D. from South Texas College of Law. Prior to going to law school, Suzan worked at an architectural firm for two years. Suzan's practice focuses on zoning, planning, due diligence, economic development incentives, tax increment financing, affordable housing, and litigation.

Suzan is active in jw2, Jackson Walker's women's initiative, and serves on the firm's Diversity Committee. She remains involved in the community as well. Suzan is heavily involved with the Real Estate Council, and in particular, its Associate Leadership Council program. Additionally, she is currently on the Executive Committee Board of Directors for the Dallas Area Habitat for Humanity.

Suzan is listed in the 2013-2014 editions of The Best Lawyers in America under Real Estate Law. She was named a "Rising Star" by Thomson Reuters (2006-2010). She was also named one of the "Best Lawyers Under 40" by *D Magazine*, and in 2005 and 2012, she was selected as one of the "Best Lawyers in Dallas" by *D Magazine*. In 2008, Suzan was named "One To Watch" in commercial real estate by *D CEO* magazine, a recognition given to up-and-coming thirty-somethings called tomorrow's brightest lights in Dallas' commercial real estate industry. She was honored by the *Dallas Business Journal* as a 2009 "40 Under Forty" honoree.

Suzan is a member of the American Bar Association, the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers, the New York State Bar Association, the Texas Bar Association, and Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW). She was named a Fellow of the Dallas Bar Foundation in 2007.



Susan Halsey Featured in 'Attorney at Law' Cover Story

Jackson Walker partner Susan Halsey was featured as the "Attorney of the Month" in the Greater Fort Worth edition of Attorney at Law magazine published on March 12, 2014.

The cover story, titled "Building Consensus, Creating Success," focused on Susan's leadership roles in the firm and the community. Susan is managing partner of the Fort Worth office and chairs the firm's Real

Estate practice group. She recently served as chairman of the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, only the second woman to hold the position in the organization's 131-year history. Susan has also played an instrumental role in forming The Greater Fort Worth Real Estate Council.

In the article, Susan says helping to form The Greater Fort Worth Real Estate Council "is one of the accomplishments I am most proud of in terms of what I've done for the real estate industry. We now have almost 400 members - real estate firms, builders, architects, title companies – an all-encompassing group. The organization has developed significant influence with city hall in real estate matters."

The article also detailed Susan's approach to her legal practice, which incorporates team-building and negotiation to achieve the client's business goals. She says, "My strength is that I am a consensus builder. While I will fight very hard for the business points that my client needs for a successful project, I'm usually able to come up with a solution that is acceptable to both parties and that gets the deal done. In a transactional situation, time is money. If matters take time and drag on, my clients could lose the economic benefit of their deal."

Susan credits Jackson Walker with giving her the foundation for building a successful 30 year practice. She states, "The culture here really does promote success and gives everybody a chance to excel."



Jesse S. Lotay Accepted to Leadership Lab Class of 2014



Jackson Walker associate Jesse S. Lotay was recently accepted to the North San Antonio Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Lab Class of 2014. His participation in the nine-month program began in February.

Leadership Lab is the North San Antonio Chamber's award-winning and innovative approach to leadership development and workforce preparedness targeted to San Antonio's up-and-coming business leaders from the corporate, non-profit, and small business environments. The nine-month training program is based on the most current thinking, research, and best practices in leadership development focusing on the following five core elements: professional performance, leadership, management, community service, and self-awareness.

Tracey Wallace Quoted in 'San Antonio Business Journal'

Jackson Walker partner Tracey Wallace was quoted in the Feb. 28, 2014, edition of the *San Antonio Business Journal* on the topic of how the legalization of same-sex marriages in Texas could impact employers.

In the article, "Employers would be wise to plan now for evolving definition of marriage," Tracey discusses the necessity for companies to address their employee benefits packages if same-sex marriages are legalized in Texas. To read the full article, [CLICK HERE](#).



***Jackson Walker
Congratulates
Its Minority and
Women Texas
Bar Foundation
Fellows***



Anna Irion



Marisela Gonzalez



Courtney Carlson



Alia Derrick



Jorge Padilla

Fellows are selected for their outstanding professional achievements and their demonstrated commitment to the improvement of the justice system throughout the state of Texas. Each year, one-third of one percent of Texas Bar members are invited to become Fellows. Once the nominees are selected, they must be elected by the Texas Bar Foundation Board of Trustees. The Foundation's mission is to advance the cause of justice in Texas. It supports programs that encourage legal assistance for the needy, education of the public, and ethics in the legal profession.



***2014 "S.A. Scene Rising Stars
Lauren Ciminello and Shari Mao***



Jackson Walker partner Lauren Ciminello and associate Shari Mao were recently selected for inclusion in S.A. Scene magazine's 2014 'Rising Stars' list.

'Rising Stars' are those considered to be the best young attorneys with a bright future in the legal profession. The list was created by senior attorneys of San Antonio and was published in the February 2014 edition of S.A. Scene.



**Joel
Heydenburk**



**Marilyn
Montano**



Matt Acosta



Chris Mugica

***Jackson Walker Congratulates
its Minority and Women
'Super Lawyers –
Rising Stars'***



April Vasquez



Lauren Mutti



Elena Sullivan



Josh Romero



**Emilio
Nicholas**

Each year, no more than 2.5 percent of the lawyers in the state are selected to receive this honor. The annual selections are made using a multiphase process that includes a statewide survey of lawyers, an independent research evaluation of candidates, and peer reviews by practice area. The result is a credible, comprehensive, and diverse listing of exceptional attorneys. The list was published in the March 2014 issue of *Texas Monthly*.



CONTINUING TO CULTIVATE COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

Jackson Walker Participates in Leadership Council on Legal Diversity (LCLD) Fellows Meeting

Managing partner Wade Cooper participated in a panel discussion consisting of LCLD Member general counsel and managing partners who shared experiences to their path to leadership. The panelists also shared insight into how they manage the balance between work, family, and community commitments.

Additionally, local area Fellows Alumni joined the 2014 Fellows at a Welcome Reception. The reception was held on March 20th at the Four Seasons Las Colinas. Austin partner Chris Mugica (2013 LCLD Fellow) and Dallas partner Suzan Kedron (2014 LCLD Fellow) participated in the LCLD Fellows meeting. The meeting included a graduation reception and dinner for the 2013 Fellows, as well as a networking breakfast for Alumni Fellows and incoming 2014 Fellows.

Jackson Walker Hosts Leadership Luncheon for the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity (LCLD) Fellows

Jackson Walker hosted a Leadership Luncheon at its Austin Office for 2012, 2013, and 2014 LCLD Fellows. The Leadership Luncheon provided an opportunity for Jackson Walker managing partner Wade Cooper, along with David Brinley, general counsel of Shell Oil Company to share their personal journeys, as well as insight into how talent is managed in their organizations, with the LCLD Fellows.

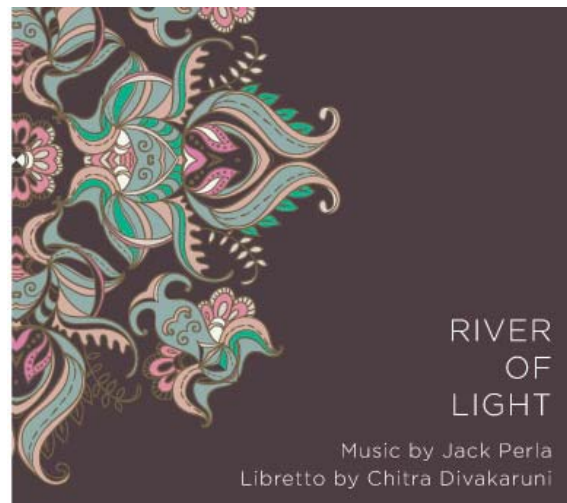
Similar Leadership gatherings are hosted across the country by other member organizations. These Leadership gatherings provide a unique opportunity for corporate and law firm members to interact with LCLD Fellows in a casual environment and in small group mentoring sessions. The objective is to provide an opportunity for one general counsel and one managing partner to share their personal journeys, as well as insight into how diversity and inclusion are integrated into their respective organizations.

Jackson Walker Supports Indian Opera Project: River of Light

As part of HGOco's East + West series, the Houston Grand Opera has commissioned *River of Light*, a new chamber opera for the 2013-14 season focused on Houston's Indian community. This unique initiative explores making opera relevant to its changing audiences by connecting with the community through collaboration. Houston partner Priya Coffey initiated the firm's support of the project.

By the end of this four-year program (which began in 2011), HGO will have commissioned and presented eight chamber operas which focus on the experiences of Houston's diverse Eastern immigrant communities from China, Azerbaijan, Iran, Cambodia, Korea, Japan, Vietnam, and India. Each

opera is performed several times in schools, cultural centers, and other community venues throughout Houston, and is accompanied by related community engagement activities and education programs for students. Each opera has free public performances. 600 people attended the opening weekend's performance at the Sri Meenakshi Temple. The next two performances were at the Asia Society.



Jackson Walker Sponsors Texas Women Lawyer's Annual CLE Conference

The all-day CLE program was held on February 28, 2014 in downtown Dallas. The program included both nationally and Texas-recognized speakers, talking on subjects such as – best communication skills, courtroom practice, marketing “at

the next level,” and best “lean into” management and promotion. The keynote speaker for the conference was Gloria Feldt, co-founder and President of Take the Lead and Nationally renowned activist, best-selling author and commentator on women, power and leadership. The firm's sponsorship also included an invitation to the Speakers Reception at the Fairmont Dallas Hotel on February 27th.

Jackson Walker Associates Attend Minority Bar's Mix and Mingle

The March 13th event, held at Batanga's restaurant, was hosted by the Hispanic Bar Association, Asian American Bar Association, Mexican American Bar Association, Houston Lawyers Association and Houston Trial Lawyers Association. The mixer offered opportunities to network with minority leaders in the Houston legal community.



Pictured (left to right) are: JW associates Chevazz Brown and Danielle Mirabal, Municipal Court Associate Judge Raul Rodriguez and Latosha Lewis (running for 295th Harris County Civil District Court). Also in attendance (not pictured) were JW associates Alia Derrick and Angeles Garcia.

Jackson Walker Sponsors State Bar of Texas' LeadershipSBOT Program

The State Bar of Texas' LeadershipSBOT program is a diversity initiative designed to recruit, train, and retain Texas lawyers for leadership positions in the legal community and the State Bar of Texas. Created in 2008, LeadershipSBOT is designed to increase diverse leadership participation within the legal community through the nomination of lawyers who possess both the desire and the potential to assume leadership roles in their communities and the State Bar of Texas.

Central to the program's mission is ensuring that participant demographics represent the diversity of the State of Texas — culturally, ethnically, geographically, and in practice area. LeadershipSBOT participants will examine what is expected of leaders and, with the advice and guidance of current leaders, discover how best to engage the public's involvement to be effective in the profession and in the community. The year-long program consists of two training sessions and concludes with the presentation of group projects during the State Bar Annual Meeting.

Houston Associates Attend National Bar Association Corporate Counsel Conference



The 27th Annual Corporate Counsel Commercial Law Section Conference was held from February 20-22, 2014 at the Barton Creek Resort and Spa in Austin. The mission of the NBA-CLS is to bring its outside counsel members together with in-house counsel who seek to increase the diversity of their outside counsel ranks, as well as to provide networking and education forums to address the interests of NBA members practicing in the area of Commercial Law. The CLS is also committed to serving the community and expanding the pipeline of African Americans entering the legal profession.

Houston associates Alia Derrick (shown above) and Chevazz Brown attended the conference. Chevazz and Alia were able to interview with representatives from several corporations, including General Motors.

Houston Associate Chevazz Brown Selected as Ambassador to Houston Bar Association (HBA)

According to HBA President David Chaumette, "The Ambassadors represent the present and the future of our bar." Chevazz was selected with several others to serve in the inaugural group. As an Ambassador, Chevazz will reach out to other bar associations in the Houston area, as well as to groups within the Houston Bar Association. His role is to talk to these groups about how the association can improve their lives and their practices. Ambassadors also bring back to the association the comments and suggestions of other groups. Chevazz is already busy attending meetings of the HBA sections and will begin visiting other local bar associations soon.



Jackson Walker Associates Stay Informed About Legal Issues Concerning Hispanic and Latin American Media

Houston associates Angeles Garcia and Chevazz Brown attended the Media Law Resource Center Conference on March 10, 2014 at the University of Miami. The conference focused on legal issues concerning Hispanic and Latin American Media. The conference included interactive panel discussions, speakers and networking opportunities.

They gained valuable insight into the benefits of creating relationships with lawyers in Latin American countries. There was also a large constituency of in-house counsel, which positively affected the dynamics of the conference. Both Angeles and Chevazz were able to meet and spend time with a number of in-house counsel.



JW GETS INVOLVED

Jackson Walker Sponsors University of Texas Thurgood Marshall Legal Society (TMLS) Black Law Students Association Banquet

This year's banquet was held at the Driskill Hotel on March 21st. The keynote speaker for the evening was the former Mayor of Atlanta, Shirley Franklin. In addition to the banquet, each year TMLS co-hosts the Diversity Education Weekend as a way to ease the transition of minority 1Ls into the law school community. Jackson Walker has supported that event as well for a number of years.

TMLS was established in 1970 to address the interests and concerns of African-American students at The University of Texas School of Law. The organization is a local chapter of the National Black Law Students Association. One of the firm's returning summer associates (Shelisa Brock-Dallas office, pictured right) is an officer with the TMLS BLSA organization. Attending the event on behalf of the firm were Austin partners Alicia Duleba, Marilyn Montano, Josh



Romero and his wife April. Marilyn and Alicia spent time visiting with Shelisa during the cocktail hour, which was held prior to the main event. JW attorneys also had the opportunity to converse with other TMLS BLSA students who shared the table with lawyers from the firm.

Jackson Walker Expands Connection to Houston Area Urban Debate League

Jackson Walker has been a supporter of the Houston Urban Debate League (HUDL) for a number of years. Houston associates Chevazz Brown and Courtney Carlson were recently asked to serve on the Young Professionals Council of the Houston Area Urban Debate League. The Houston Area Urban League Young Professionals is a diverse group of individuals comprised primarily of professionals in the age range of 21 – 40 that represent various industries and professions throughout Houston.

Young Professionals members are considered to be the next generation of leaders inside and outside the Urban League movement. Chevazz and Courtney's role in HUDL will essentially be to support the organization by providing insight, recommendations and attendance at events.



Houston partner Marisela Pena Gonzalez on Advisory Board for Arte Público Press

Arte Público Press is part of the University of Houston. It is the largest U.S. publisher of contemporary and recovered literature by U.S. Hispanic authors. It publishes approximately 30 titles per year. In 1992, Arte Público launched the "Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage" project in order to recover, index and publish lost Latino writings dating from the American colonial period to 1960. In 1994, they created Piñata Books, their children's and young adult literature imprint. Piñata Books is dedicated to the themes, languages, characters and customs of Hispanic culture in the United States.

In addition to her advisory role at Arte Público Press, Marisela is also on the Houston Bar Association – Minority Opportunities in Legal Profession Program Committee as well as a member of the Hispanic Bar Association of Houston.

Jackson Walker Has Connection to Texas Civil Rights Project



Houston associate Chevazz Brown is on the Texas Civil Rights Project (TCRP) Board of Councilors. TCRP's Board of Councilors promotes pro bono attorney programs by encouraging attorneys to perform legal assistance for TCRP's clients in a variety of civil rights issues.

TCRP uses education and litigation to make structural change in areas such as voting rights, police and border patrol misconduct, sex discrimination, employment bias, privacy, disability rights, grand jury discrimination, traditional civil liberties (i.e. free speech), and Title IX in secondary education. TCRP also conducts a program under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and provides social and legal services to low/moderate-income victims of domestic violence.

Jackson Walker Supports SMU'S Hispanic Law Students Association (HLSA)

One of HLSA's goals is to provide a support network for Hispanic law students to discuss issues facing Hispanic lawyers and to develop positive role models in the Hispanic community. HLSA hosted its First Annual Career and Networking Event on March 29, 2014. HLSA and the Mexican American Bar Association of Texas (MABA-TX) also hosted a Student Conference on the same date. U.S. Attorney (NDTX) Sarah Saldaña gave the keynote address during the conference luncheon. Attending on behalf of the firm were: Dallas partner Sara McEown and Dallas associates James McFall and Paige Nobles. The event was a great way to connect with SMU law students.



Houston Associate Joseph Fonlon Attends First African-American Law Alumni Celebration at William & Mary Law School

The celebration, held on February 21-22, 2014, had nearly 70 African-American graduates from the law school (from 31 classes) attending the event.

Those in attendance had the opportunity to hear from alumni about their career paths. University leaders also addressed the history of African-Americans at the College of William & Mary and at the Law School. The first African-American student to graduate from William & Mary received his law degree in August 1954; the same year as *Brown v. Board of Education*. According to the law school dean, one out of every six African-American law students to graduate from William & Mary before 1983 eventually became a judge.

In addition, law school alumni discussed their experiences as law students. Guest speakers included Congressman Bobby Scott of Virginia and Justice John Charles Thomas (ret.) of the Supreme Court of Virginia and a member of the William & Mary Board of Visitors. During the alumni weekend, the Black Law Students Association (BLSA) hosted the Oliver Hill Scholarship Banquet. A number of participants also have chosen to assist current law students by supporting the Reaching Back Scholarship.

Current students had the opportunity to meet African-American role models (and potential mentors) and to obtain invaluable advice from alumni. Among the successful alumni lawyers attending were judges, in-house counsel, prosecutors and public defenders.

Jackson Walker Continues Partnership with Houston Bar Association and Communities In School (CIS) Program

The HBA/CIS Summer Legal Internship provides an opportunity for academically outstanding CIS high school students to participate in an eight-week program with Houston area law firms, corporate legal departments and public-interest agencies. The students are typically top

students in their schools and attend a job readiness program before beginning their internships. During the internships, students participate in enrichment programs (e.g., lunch with judges, presentations, and participation in mock trials).

Houston associate Chevazz Brown, who is co-chair of the HBA's Communities In Schools committee, says the program is rewarding for both the students and partner firms. Part of his responsibilities on the committee are to help pitch the CIS idea to other law firms. Last year, the program placed 27 students in paid internships with more than 23 participating legal employers, including Jackson Walker.



Diversity Committee



MELISSA BATES
Recruiting Coord.
Houston



CHEVAZZ BROWN
Associate
Houston



LING CHWANG
Partner
Dallas



ALICIA DULEBA
Partner
Dallas



JOSEPH FONLON
Associate
Houston



Alesia Foster
Diversity Coord.
Houston



JOEL HEYDENBRUCK
Partner
Ft. Worth



SUZAN KEDRON
Partner
Dallas



SCOTT MCELHANEY
Partner
Dallas



LAUREN MUTTI
Partner
Dallas



JORGE PADILLA
Associate
Austin



JAMES PRAPPAS
Partner
Houston



JOSH ROMERO
Partner
Dallas



BRUCE RUZINSKY
Partner
Houston



JOAN SOSTEK
Of Counsel
Dallas



ROBERT SOZA
Partner
San Antonio



APRIL VASQUEZ
Partner
Houston



SORAYA WALDEN
Dir. Recruiting
Dallas



JERRY WEBBERMAN
Partner
Austin



MARLENE WILLIAMS
Partner
Houston



LEONARD WOODS
Partner
Austin



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