

4th Annual HBCU Tech Law Summit  
&  
19th Annual IP and Social Justice CLE Seminar

Virtual Career Panel



LITA ROSARIO-RICHARDSON



JENNIFER HAYES



PHILIP HAMPTON



W. LANELLE OWENS



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## **Lita Rosario-Richardson**

Lita T. Rosario-Richardson is the principal of WYZ Girl Entertainment Consulting a boutique entertainment and intellectual property law and consulting firm in Washington D.C. Rosario began her career in entertainment law as a cofounder and co-owner of University Music Entertainment, a music production company that produced multi-platinum recording artists DRU Hill, Mya and ultimately SISQO. Rosario went on to represent such artists as Sisqo, Dru Hill, Missy Elliott, Crystal Waters, and Tank. She has secured back royalties for many artists and songwriters including, Peaches & Herb, Mr. Cheeks, and Big Pun. Rosario began her career on Wall Street as an associate at Sherman & Sterling doing mergers and acquisitions. Later she worked in the Enforcement Division of the Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington D.C. before embarking upon her career in the music industry.

Rosario graduated from Howard University in 1983 Howard University School of Law in 1986. While a Howard University undergraduate Rosario was the President of the School of Communications Student Council and the Co-Captain of the Debate Team. Rosario recruited Senator Kamala Harris, to the Debate Team while she was at Howard and has been interviewed by major media after Harris was nominated as Vice Presidential Candidate for the Democratic Party about her friendship with Harris. La Times Article, Washington Post Article, ABC News Night Line, Yahoo News and CNN.

## **Jennifer Hayes**

Jennifer M. Hayes is a patent attorney and Principal with Jordan IP Law, LLC. Ms. Hayes is involved in all aspects of patent law, with an emphasis on patent procurement, patent portfolio strategies, counseling, and opinions. Ms. Hayes specializes in pharmaceutical, chemical, and material science arts. Ms. Hayes earned a B.S. in Pharmacy from Howard University (1991), a Juris Doctor from Howard University (1994), an LL.M. in Intellectual Property from The George Washington Law School (2002), and a M.S. in Pharmaceutical Science from the University of Florida. Prior to joining Jordan IP Law, Ms. Hayes was a partner at an Intellectual Property boutique law firm in Washington, D.C.

Ms. Hayes has also worked at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office as a Patent Examiner (Technology Center 1700-Chemicals and Materials Engineering), and as a Petitions Attorney in the Office of Petitions. Before entering the area of patent law, Ms. Hayes was a registered pharmacist in the state of Maryland. She has served as a member of Howard Intellectual Property Program (HIPPP) Advisory Board and the Institute for Intellectual Property and Social Justice (IIPJS) at the Howard University School of Law, and she has served as a Moderator and Speaker for IIPJS Annual CLE events. Ms. Hayes has also served as an adjunct faculty at the Howard University School of Law, co-teaching the Patent Clinic class.

## **Philip Hampton**

Philip G. Hampton II is a seasoned multi-faceted IP practitioner leveraging almost 40 years of experience. Phil partners with clients on trademark and copyright matters including selection, clearance, prosecution, enforcement and maintenance of their intellectual property and portfolio management, trademark audits, licensing and dispute resolution. Phil's practice also focuses on patent and trademark litigation, patent and trademark counseling, licensing and merchandising agreements based on patents, trade secrets, transactions related to the transfer of intellectual property pursuant to corporate acquisitions. Phil has also prepared, filed and prosecuted both U.S. and foreign patent applications and prepared opinions regarding patentability, validity and infringement issues. He has also participated in appeals before both the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences and the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board.

Prior to joining Polsinelli, President Clinton nominated Phil to be the Assistant Commissioner for Trademarks, making him responsible for the Trademarks Office from 1994 – 1998. Phil has devoted much of his time to actively making intellectual property a more inclusive area of the law, mentoring numerous minority and women law students. He is the inaugural recipient of the Diversity in Tech Award presented by the IP Section of the National Bar.

## **W. LaNelle Owens**

W. LaNelle Owens is Assistant General Counsel, Head of Intellectual Property for Thrasio, Inc. In this role, she manages a team focused on domestic and foreign IP matters and is a key internal business partner advising on all aspects of product development, supply chain and brand protection. Prior to this role, LaNelle was Senior Associate Counsel for Walmart Inc., where she advised on global issues related to patent, trademark, domain enforcement and global sourcing matters arising in the U.S., China, India and Europe for Walmart Inc. and its international affiliates.

LaNelle was also Intellectual Property Counsel for John Deere. She handled the company's global trademark portfolio in the U.S., Canada, China, India, Europe and Latin America. In 2009, LaNelle served as Senior Attorney at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and managed the laboratory's domestic and foreign patents, copyrights and trademarks, as well as the laboratory's intellectual property transactional activities in the U.S. and abroad.

LaNelle earned her J.D. from the Howard University School of Law, Master of Mass Communication from the University of South Carolina and her B.S. in Chemistry from the University of Illinois. She is also a registered patent attorney.