2023 CONFERENCE
MARCH 2-3 | WASHINGTON D.C.

HBCU IP & TECH LAW SUMMIT

IP & SOCIAL JUSTICE CLE
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EXCELLENCE IS DIVERSITY

Diversity is essential to providing excellence to our clients. Investing in diversity and inclusion is more than smart business—it is who we are. In all respects, we drive excellence and diversity to resolve our clients’ most complex business and legal challenges.

*Perkins Coie is proud to sponsor the 2023 5th Annual HBCU Tech Law Summit as it aims to educate minority legal professionals on various issues and opportunities in the tech industry. We share its commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.*
On behalf of the Institute for Intellectual Property and Social Justice (IIPSJ), I would like to congratulate the Howard University School of Law and Microsoft on their recent intellectual property and technology law diversity event. On March 2 and 3, 2023, the convening brought together the 20th Annual IIPSJ IP and Social Justice CLE Program and the 5th Annual Microsoft Technology Summit to provide a comprehensive “diversity pipeline” experience.

While many important diversity recruitment programs are designed to increase opportunities for attorneys of color and many other programs expose minority law students to new fields of practice, the incorporation of the student-focused Technology Summit into the IP Social Justice CLE initiative establishes a new bench mark in the diversity pipeline framework.

During the Technology Summit, Howard Law Students learned of new opportunities in intellectual property and technology law and policy practice and during the IP Social Justice CLE program they saw first-hand HUSL alumni lecture as experts to a diverse audience of IP practitioners and jurists.

Moreover, the event helps to create an HBCU epicenter for diversity recruitment in these cutting-edge areas of the law, which in the coming months will be expanded to include other HBCU institutions throughout the nation. Congratulations to our growing community on hosting this successful event.
LETTER FROM THE FOUNDER

CHARLIE BINGHAM, FOUNDER OF HBCU IP & TECH LAW SUMMIT AND SENIOR LEGAL COUNSEL OF PARTNERS & STRATEGIC ALLIANCES – SPLUNK; HOWARD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, CLASS OF 2008

Thank you to all of you who decided to participate in this year’s 5th Annual HBCU IP & Tech Law Summit (the “Tech Law Summit”). We truly appreciate the opportunity to share with you our passion for diversifying the legal industry to address the social justice implications of intellectual property and technology law and policy. On this, myself and the Institute of Intellectual Property and Social Justice (“IIPSJ”) are aligned. For those who have already joined us in this important endeavor, we thank you. Without you, the dream would remain just that – a dream. If you haven’t joined us, we hope you’ll take the time to explore our impact and to learn more about the Tech Law Summit.

Everything we do at the Tech Law Summit is in service of our mission: to diversify the legal industry to address the social justice implications of intellectual property and technology law and policy. I’m optimistic that the vision of a diverse legal profession that is able to address the social justice implications of intellectual property and technology law and policy is achievable. Admittedly, our goal is bold. Quite simply, we intend to improve the quality of our jurisprudence and the quality of life in our diverse community by effecting sustainable social change.

The Tech Law Summit is a story that started on a conference call to win HBCU mindshare where the hosting of a BBQ was suggested by an executive controlling the corporate budget. Since that call I’m sure it has grown beyond what many could’ve imagined. I was inspired after that call to start the Tech Law Summit to show that sustainable programs were possible at HBCUs with the appropriate support, so I got to work with my manager’s support at the time. I’m proud of what we’ve built so far, and five years later I’m excited about what comes next – as we move beyond what’s possible today, beyond the constraints of limited corporate budgets, beyond the limits of distance and space, and towards a future where everyone can be present with each other, create new opportunities and experience new things. It is a future that is beyond any one school, company, or law firm and that will be made by all of us.
The core objective of the Tech Law Summit is to expose HBCU law students to the fields of IP and Tech Law practice and the various career opportunities in these fields, including practice emphasis in support of private, public, and social justice interests in the technology and IP ecosystem. The Summit is comprised of two key components: (i) a full day of student-focused IP and Tech Law updates and professional career panels and networking with Tech and IP practitioners and experts and (ii) recognition of student academic and extracurricular achievement in these fields, including the presentation of “micro” scholarship awards paid directly to students.

While the Summit was initially established for Howard Law students, it has since been expanded to include students at all the HBCU law schools. In 2022 a pilot initiative was added to expand the scope of the program to assist students in finding internship opportunities in IP practice, and to provide internship stipends where the internships secured are uncompensated. Law firm and corporate support has been critical to the Tech Law Summit’s success, through financial sponsorship and participation in the program panels and networking activities. In addition to the substantive doctrinal updates and career information provided to all the student attendees, scholarship awards were presented to over a dozen Howard law students at the first Summit event; in subsequent years, scholarship awards have also been presented to students attending Florida A&M School of Law, North Carolina Central University School of Law, and Southern University School of Law.

The last three years have been humbling for me and the Tech Law Summit in many ways. One of the main lessons I’ve learned is that building a sustainable movement that people love isn’t enough. I’ve also gained more appreciation that the understanding of the importance of diversity, equity and inclusion in the legal industry is not a foregone conclusion. Specifically, it is well documented that after going on a hiring spree during the pandemic, technology companies have had massive layoffs which have disproportionately impacted minorities and women. It feels like a repeat of The Great Recession between 2007-2009 which impacted me after graduation from Howard University School of Law. Nonetheless, if you take the long view, it’s clear that many forces are converging to hold the legal profession more accountable for its lack of diversity.

We need to build a more diverse pipeline so that more people have a stake in the future of the legal profession. We are at the beginning of the next chapter and it’s the next chapter for the Tech Law Summit as well. Every season brings new voices and new ideas, but also new challenges, risks, and disruption of established principles. We’ll need to work together, from the beginning, to bring the vision to life.
When we work together, we can do great things – things that contribute to a better quality of life for all. The Tech Law Summit’s role in this journey is to accelerate the development of the pipeline and that is what we are dedicated to helping to achieve.

Of course, to accomplish a great goal like that of the Tech Law Summit, investment is required. Additional sponsorship support is needed to increase the number (and amount) of scholarships and internship stipends. In addition, funding to support a dedicated internship and professional training resource function would extend the systemic reach of the Tech Law Summit. Among other things, this function would serve to identify educational and professional resources to complement and expand existing IP curriculum and extra-curricular programs and to compile internship and related experiential opportunities and establish a clearing house database. Additional funding could also support the creation of a survey assessment metric and provide participation incentives, including post-graduate career support, toward determining the long-term impacts of the Summit on individual student careers.

In addition to expanding the breadth of the Tech Law Summit, the Tech Law Summit’s demographic focus can be adapted to promote law student exposure to IP and Tech Law practice for other law school cohorts, such as in rural areas and tech and post-industrial corridors. In each incarnation, however, the key program components would include student engagement with relatable role models and direct financial support through scholarship awards.

The time to take action is now. If this sounds like a future you would like to see, I hope you’ll join us.

EXCELLENCE IS DIVERSITY

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Perkins Coie is proud to sponsor the 2023 5th Annual HBCU Tech Law Summit as it aims to educate minority legal professionals on various issues and opportunities in the tech industry. We share its commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.
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<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>EVENT &amp; SPEAKERS</th>
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| 9:00 – 9:05 am |  **Introduction and Welcome**  
  - Charlie Bingham, Founder of HBCU IP & Tech Law Summit and Senior Legal Counsel of Partners & Strategic Alliances – *Splunk*; Howard University School of Law, Class of 2008  
  
| 9:05 – 10:05 am | **The Impact of Innovative Technologies on Society and the Practice of Law**  
  (Chat GPT, NFTs, AI, Metaverse, etc.)  
  - **Moderator:** Rizwan A. Qureshi, Hiring Partner – *Reed Smith*; Howard University School of Law, Class of 2007  
  - Charnay Augustin, Senior Counsel, Marketplace – *Uber*; Howard University School of Law, Class of 2011  
  - Julien Bowers, Senior Counsel – *Perkins Coie*; Georgetown University Law Center, Class of 2010  
  - Alex Butterworth, Senior Counsel, Delivery – *Uber*; Western Australia College of Law, Class of 2010  
  - Stanton Burke, Associate Attorney – *Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP*; Howard University School of Law, Class of 2017  

| 10:05 – 11:05 am | **The Impact of Data Privacy & Security on Society and the Practice of Law**  
  - **Moderator:** Natalie Roisman, Executive Director - *Georgetown Law Institute for Technology Law & Policy*; University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School  
  - Adonne Washington, Policy Counsel – *Future of Privacy Forum*; Howard University School of Law, Class of 2020  
  - Loyaan A. Egal, Chief of Enforcement – *Federal Communications Commission*; Howard University School of Law, Class of 2002  

Speaker bios available starting on page 23
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<th>TIME</th>
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<tr>
<td>11:05 – 11:15 am</td>
<td>BREAK</td>
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<td>11:15 am – 12:15 pm</td>
<td><strong>Keynote Fireside Chat with Kemba Eneas Walden</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Charlie Bingham and Kemba Eneas Walden, Principal Deputy National Cyber Director – <em>Office of the National Cyber Director</em>, Georgetown University Law Center, Class of 2002</td>
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<td>12:15 – 12:45 pm</td>
<td>Lunchtime Awards Ceremony</td>
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<td>12:45 – 1:00 pm</td>
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<td>1:00 – 2:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>The Impact of Cryptocurrency and Blockchain on Society and the Practice of Law</strong>&lt;br&gt;• <strong>Moderator:</strong> Edward Fultz, Mid-Level Associate – <em>Reed Smith</em>, Howard University School of Law, Class of 2020&lt;br&gt;• Tiffany J. Smith, Partner – <em>WilmerHale</em>, The George Washington University Law School, Class of 2008&lt;br&gt;• Valerie Dahiya, Partner – <em>Perkins Coie</em>, Seattle University School of Law, Class of 2005&lt;br&gt;• Alexis Liistro, Patent Attorney – <em>Schwegman Lundberg &amp; Woessner, P.A.</em>, New England Law, Class of 2009</td>
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<td>2:00 – 3:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>The Impact of IP &amp; Diversity in the Legal Profession on Society and the Practice of Law</strong></td>
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<td>• <strong>Moderator:</strong> Aneesh Mehta, Head of Product Legal – <em>Microsoft India</em>; Rutgers Law School</td>
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<td>• Ricardo Bonilla, Principal - <em>Fish &amp; Richardson</em>; Texas Tech University School of Law, Class of 2012</td>
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<td>• Dr. Anita Lam, Sr. Corporate Counsel – <em>Microsoft</em>; The George Washington University Law School</td>
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<td>• Sean Suber, Partner – <em>Winston &amp; Strawn LLP</em>; University of Virginia School of Law, Class of 2014</td>
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<td>• Nyajuok Deng, Attorney – <em>Fredrikson &amp; Byron, P.A.</em>; Howard University School of Law, Class of 2018</td>
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<td>3:00 – 4:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Paying it Forward: A Day in the Life of a Tech Lawyer</strong></td>
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<td>• <strong>Moderator:</strong> Natasha Walwyn Robinson – <em>Splunk</em>; Suffolk University Law School, Class of 2008</td>
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<td>• Charlie Bingham, Founder of Tech Law Summit and Senior Legal Counsel – <em>Splunk</em>; Howard University School of Law 2008</td>
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<td>• Michele G. Cober, Director – External Affairs – <em>Verizon</em>; Howard University School of Law 2008</td>
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<td>• Daphne Forbes, Assistant General Counsel – <em>Microsoft</em>; American University Washington School of Law</td>
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<td>• April Williams, Partner – <em>WilmerHale</em>; Howard University School of Law, Class of 2008</td>
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<td>5:30 – 7:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Networking Reception</strong></td>
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<td>8:45 – 9:00 am</td>
<td><strong>Introduction and Welcome</strong>&lt;br&gt;  - Lateef Mtima, Founder – <em>IIPSJ</em>; Professor of Law – Howard University School of Law&lt;br&gt;  - Tashia Bunch, Program Director – <em>IIPSJ</em>; TTAB Interlocutory Attorney – USPTO; Howard University School of Law, Class of 2006&lt;br&gt;  - Esther H. Lim, Patent Chair of IIPSJ Annual Conference; Partner &amp; Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer – <em>Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett &amp; Dunner, LLP</em></td>
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<td>9:00 – 10:30 am</td>
<td><strong>IP Law Year in Review</strong>&lt;br&gt;  - Thomas L. Irving, Partner – <em>Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett &amp; Dunner, LLP</em>&lt;br&gt;  - Douglas A. Retlew, Partner – <em>Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett &amp; Dunner, LLP</em>&lt;br&gt;  - Ian C. Ballon, Shareholder – <em>Greenberg Traurig LLP</em></td>
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<td>10:30 – 10:40 am</td>
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<td>11:50 am –</td>
<td>Social Justice Luncheon</td>
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<td>1:50 pm</td>
<td>12:20 – 1:05 pm Highlights from the Innovator Diversity Pilots Conference</td>
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<td>• Margo Bagley, Professor of Law – <em>Emory Law School</em>; Harvard Law School Visiting Professor</td>
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<td>• Colleen Chien, Professor of Law – <em>Santa Clara University School of Law</em></td>
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<td>1:05 – 1:50 pm Unleashing American Innovation Act</td>
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<td>• Scott Wilson, Director, Government Affairs – <em>Spotify</em></td>
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<td>1:50 – 2:00 pm</td>
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<td>2:00 – 3:00 pm</td>
<td>Session A: Leading with IP and Adding Value to Corporations</td>
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<td>• <strong>Moderator:</strong> Daryl Lim, H. Laddie Montague Jr. Chair in Law – <em>Penn State Dickinson Law</em></td>
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<td>• Andrew Cooper, Associate General Counsel – <em>Meta</em></td>
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<td>• Claire W. Desmond, Senior Counsel, IP &amp; Advertising – <em>Under Armor</em></td>
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<td>• Izu Emeagwali, Executive Director and Assistant General Counsel – <em>J.P. Morgan</em>; Howard University School of Law Class of 2010</td>
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<td>• Yen Florczak, Chief Intellectual Property Counsel – <em>3M Company</em> (invited)</td>
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<td>• Ankur Shah, Associate General Counsel for Intellectual Property – <em>Freddie Mac</em></td>
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<td>2:00 – 3:00 pm</td>
<td>Session B: Copyrights: A Discussion of Warhol v. Goldsmith</td>
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<td>• Mel Bostwick, Partner – <em>Orrick</em></td>
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<td>• Sachi Schuricht, Managing Associate – <em>Orrick</em></td>
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<td>3:00 – 4:00 pm</td>
<td>Session A: In House Counsel Discussion on Trade Secret Law</td>
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<td>• Michael Forzano, Chief IP Counsel Pall – <em>Pall Corporation</em></td>
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<td>• Ulysses Williams III, Intellectual Property Counsel – <em>Pall Corporation</em>; Howard University School of Law, Class of 2016</td>
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3:00 – 4:00 pm
(Dual Track Session)

**Session B: Updates on College Athletes NIL & Celebrities Right of Publicity**

- Jonathan Goins, Principal – *Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP*, Howard University School of Law, Class of 2002
- Ron Katz, Author, *Sport, Ethics and Leadership* (Routledge, 2017)

4:00 – 4:15 pm

**BREAK**

4:15 – 5:15 pm

**Ethics Session**

- Aisha Cassis, Deputy Executive Attorney – *D.C. Board on Professional Responsibility*, Howard University School of Law, Class of 2005
- William Thomashower, Counsel – *Pryor Cashman LLP*
“Nothing can stop the power of a committed and determined people to make a difference in our society.”

— John Lewis

WilmerHale commemorates the Institute for Intellectual Property & Social Justice for their efforts of redressing the intellectual property law and policy to include participation of disadvantaged, excluded and marginalized groups.
SPEAKER BIOS
Ordered alphabetically by last name A-Z

CHARNAY AUGUSTIN

Charnay is a corporate attorney with 11+ years of in-house legal experience supporting clients in the media, entertainment and technology industries. Charnay currently serves as Senior Counsel on the Mobility Products and Ops Legal Team at Uber where she primarily supports Uber’s ridesharing marketplace teams, which design and operationalize the technology for pricing and matching riders and drivers using the Uber app.

CHARLIE BINGHAM JR

Charlie is a seasoned attorney with more than 12 years of experience in the legal profession. He’s currently Senior Legal Counsel at Splunk leading their Global Partners & Strategic Alliances team. He is responsible for enabling the compliant expansion and acceleration of Splunk’s global partner business.

RICARDO BONILLA

Ricardo is a litigation attorney focusing his practice across all areas of commercial and intellectual property litigation, with an emphasis on patents. Ricardo serves as the firm’s recruiting principal in Dallas and co-chair of Lawtinos, the firm’s Hispanic/Latinx affinity group. Ricardo is also head of Fish & Richardson’s Next Gen initiative, which provides a voice and opportunities for newer lawyers and ensures proper training for Fish’s associates.

JULIEN BOWERS

Julien represents clients in complex technology, data, intellectual property, and privacy transactions, including SaaS, software, reseller, professional services, and distribution agreements.

STANTON BURKE

Stanton is an associate in the Palo Alto office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher. He is a member of the Privacy, Cybersecurity and Data Innovation practice group. Mr. Burke helps clients understand and develop a practical and strategic approach to privacy and data protection that enables them to unlock the value of data, navigate privacy risks and engage in data-driven transactions while complying with complex and evolving data protection laws.

ALEX BUTTERWORTH

Alex is a global technology lawyer, with extensive experience in both Australia and the US, working for brands like McDonald’s, Postmates, and Uber. At Uber, Alex builds online terms, system-generated contracts, and deploys major global agreements across Uber’s delivery markets.
MICHELE G. COBER

Michele is Executive Director of External Affairs & Strategic Alliances at Verizon where she manages strategic relationships with certain third party organizations representing various civil and human rights interests.

NYAJUOK DENG

Nyajuok is an attorney at Fredrikson & Byron where her practice focuses on assisting clients with technology and data transactional matters, mergers and acquisitions, and IP diligence. She assists in the strategic drafting and negotiation of technology transfers, licensing, and software and data agreements.

LOYAAN A. EGAL

Loyalan is Chief of the Federal Communications Commission’s Enforcement Bureau. He leads the FCC organizational unit (including regional and field offices in 13 locations across the country) responsible for enforcing violations of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and FCC regulations under Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

DAPHNE FORBES

Daphne is Assistant General Counsel and a trusted legal and business advisor at Microsoft with 20+ years of practice in the U.S. Public Sector and Commercial Regulated Industries. She is lead counsel and managing attorney responsible for supporting Microsoft’s Health & Life Sciences and Public Sector businesses (HPSI).

EDWARD FULTZ

Edward is a mid-level Associate in the Entertainment and Media Industry Group. Edward practices in all aspects of advertising, marketing, promotions, and brand protections. He drafts a variety of music contracts including mastering, mixing, producing, royalties, and rights of publicity.

ANITA LAM

Anita is currently a Senior Corporate Counsel at Microsoft Corp. supporting the platform, product, regulatory, and safety issues at Xbox. She provides frontline support for her engineering clients, which includes product-specific questions, deal work, and advising on issues such as licensing, IP, marketing, data privacy and security, compliance, and product life-cycle.
ALEXIS LIISTRO

Alexis is a registered patent attorney with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and has focused on patent prosecution and intellectual property for over thirteen years. Focusing her practice on helping clients to obtain intellectual property assets, Alexis works on the full spectrum of patent prosecution strategies and patent portfolio development.

ANEESH MEHTA

Aneesh is the Head of Product Legal For Microsoft India. He is a lifelong technophile turned engineer turned tech lawyer at Microsoft. Aneesh supports clients in the development of cutting-edge technology from incubation, go-to-market strategies, product launch, strategic partnerships and licensing, and post launch support for Microsoft’s India Development Center.

RIZWAN "RIZZY" A. QURESHI

Rizzy is a partner at Reed Smith where he helps corporations and individuals facing difficult legal and reputational crises in government investigations, criminal and regulatory proceedings, and related civil litigation.

NATASHA WALWYN ROBINSON

Natasha is legal counsel at Splunk where she advises the global marketing organization and leads the company’s brand protection program.

NATALIE ROISMAN

Natalie is Executive Director at Georgetown Law Institute for Technology Law & Policy. Prior, she was partner and Director of Social Responsibility at the law firm of Wilkinson Barker Knauer LLP (WBK) in Washington, D.C. where she advised clients on media and telecommunications regulation and provided strategic guidance and advocacy before legislative, executive and regulatory bodies at the state and federal levels.

TIFFANY J. SMITH

Tiffany is a partner at WilmerHale. She has over a decade of experience advising and representing broker-dealers, financial institutions, and technology companies (including crypto companies) on cutting edge regulatory and compliance matters.
SEAN SUBER

Sean is a trial and appellate lawyer who focuses his practice on complex litigation, class actions, product liability, and mass tort matters. He represents clients in a wide range of industry sectors, with a focus on guiding clients through all phases of litigation in the consumer products, media & entertainment, technology, and health care industries.

ANUP SURESH

Anup is a Principal and registered patent attorney at Schwegman Lundberg & Woessner, and currently serves as the firm’s Data Security Officer. His practice focuses on patent procurement and development of business-focused patent strategies covering electrical, software, mechanical, and computer technologies.

KEMBA ENEAS WALDEN

Kemba is Principal Deputy National Cyber Director and an attorney with extensive experience in government and the private sector. Prior she was at Microsoft, where she served as an Assistant General Counsel in Microsoft’s Digital Crimes Unit (DCU) responsible for launching and leading DCU’s Ransomware Program.

ADONNE WASHINGTON

Adonne is Policy Counsel for Data, Mobility, Location with the Future of Privacy Forum in Washington, DC. She works on privacy and technology matters, specifically in relation to data, mobility, and location.

APRIL WILLIAMS

April is a partner at WilmerHale with significant experience representing companies and individuals in complex civil and criminal cases, and in investigations throughout the United States and abroad. She has counseled and represented clients in a wide variety of government investigations, including investigations by the US Department of Justice and the Securities and Exchange Commission.
“Nothing can stop the power of a committed and determined people to make a difference in our society.”

— John Lewis

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Outstanding Achievement in IP Social Justice Award

The Outstanding Achievement in IP Social Justice Award is presented to an HBCU Law student who has combined exemplary immersion and proficiency in the study of intellectual property law with demonstrated service toward furthering the Houstonian Legacy in the field of intellectual property law. Outstanding IP Social Justice Achievement includes volunteer efforts to support grassroots intellectual property awareness, education, activism, and entrepreneurship; proliferation of progressive IP social policy, professional education, and pro bono representation; and HBCU Intellectual Property Students Association curricular and extra-curricular internship, externship, and related educational activities.

The HBCU Tech Law Summit IP Social Engineer Awards

The Tech Law Summit IP Social Engineer Award is bestowed in recognition of demonstrated commitment to the application of the Houstonian tenets of social engineering to the field of intellectual property and information technology law. Each IP Social Engineer Award is presented to an HBCU law student who has achieved an exemplary record of immersion and proficiency in the study of intellectual property law, leadership in the Intellectual Property Students Association, and personal service and activism to promote Intellectual Property Social Justice.
The HBCU Tech Law Summit IP Achievement Awards

The Tech Law Summit IP Achievement Award is bestowed in recognition of superior academic achievement in the study of intellectual property law. The IP Achievement Award is presented to an HBCU law student whose performance in the intellectual property curriculum reflects both academic excellence and ardent contribution toward the enrichment of the HBCU intellectual property pedagogical experience and enhancement of its scholarly impact in the field.

The HBCU Tech Law Policy Achievement Awards

The Tech Law Policy Achievement Award is bestowed upon an HBCU law student in recognition of demonstrated commitment to the pursuit of social justice in the field of intellectual property and information technology law. The award is presented to a student who has demonstrated a keen interest and growth mindset in learning about how technology can be used as legal and socio-economic tools to promote social justice, particularly in those communities that have been historically underserved by tech law, policy goals, and implementation.

The Diversity & Inclusion in Tech Ally Awards

The D&I in Tech Ally Award is bestowed upon an HBCU student in recognition of academic achievement and demonstrated outstanding service and commitment to promoting diversity and inclusion in the legal tech profession and in intellectual property practice, and in related fields of law and technology policy. The D&I Tech Ally works to enhance the vocational connections between legal practice and tech policy, particularly with respect to serving historically underserved communities.
MAYA ALLEN  
J.D. CANDIDATE 2022  
NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

I express my deepest gratitude for the HBCU Tech Law Summit Outstanding Achievement in IP Social Justice Award. This award will allow me to focus on my bar preparations without financial constraints this summer.

When I become a part of the 1.7% Black IP attorneys, I know that I must continue my efforts to create opportunities for more people of color to feel welcome to contribute to the intellectual property space. I am honored to be a recipient and thank you so much for this award.

AMINAH ORTIZ-SIMON  
J.D. CANDIDATE 2023  
HOWARD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

I am extremely humbled and grateful to have received the Outstanding Achievement in IP Social Justice Award. This field has roused in me a passion and persistence that I am excited to pursue in the future, especially with the help of this award.

As I enter my final year of law school and begin preparing for the bar, the stipend accompanying this award will allow me to purchase textbooks, sustain myself during bar study, and pay a few of the many fees accrued when obtaining a license. I am incredibly grateful to the small but mighty IP Social Justice community for this support, and look forward to joining you in advocating for social justice reform and equity in IP. Thank you so much.

AUSTIN SANDERS  
J.D. CANDIDATE 2022  
NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

I am incredibly grateful to receive the Microsoft Tech Law Summit IP Social Engineer Award. I am thankful for my professors and mentors at North Carolina Central University who have fostered my passion and knowledge of intellectual property law. I plan to utilize the stipend to further my career in patent preparation and prosecution and advocate for the intellectual property rights of those in my community.
CIERRA SANDERS
J.D. CANDIDATE 2021
HOWARD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

It is an extreme honor to have been presented with an HBCU Tech Law Summit & 19th Social Justice CLE Award. I plan to use the $2,500 to put toward my bar prep course and tutoring through BarMax. After performing extensive research, I have found that BarMax is the best option for me to pass the California Bar Exam.

Becoming barred in California will allow me greater access to roles in IP law, and thus will significantly aid in my career goals. The HBCU Tech Law Summit & 19th Social Justice CLE Award affords me the opportunity to pay for one of the best bar prep courses available and I am eternally grateful. Thank you so much for this wonderful recognition.

IAN MCGILL
J.D. CANDIDATE 2023
HOWARD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

I look forward to continuing to explore intellectual property law and social justice post-graduation and determining the best way to act as a Houstonian lawyer in those fields. This award will help me attain that goal. This funding will allow me to work on independent research opportunities associated with intellectual property and social justice intersectionality. A research topic that I’m particularly interested in pursuing involves the alleged use of copyrighted music by law enforcement during interactions with the public. There are numerous incidents involving law enforcement officers playing copyrighted music during interactions with the public to prevent citizens’ distribution of video evidence of officer misconduct. I am interested in exploring the prevalence of this activity and legal and or policy solutions regarding this unforeseen practice.

Alternatively, I could use this funding to investigate ways to provide practical aid to vulnerable communities. For example, this award would be tremendously helpful in exploring potential collaboration with the Motown Museum in Detroit, Michigan. This collaboration could include a workshop and presentation highlighting the role of copyright and trademarks in the history of the Motown Record label and its artists. Additionally, this program could explore the relationship between intellectual property law and the independent or burgeoning artist in the 21st century and outline the resources available to anyone interested in learning more about the role of intellectual property law in creating, distributing, and protecting their creative works.

LORENA GOMEZ
J.D. CANDIDATE 2023
NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

I was very honored to learn that I had received the 4th Annual HBCU Tech Law Summit IP Achievement Award. I am writing to thank you for your generous financial support towards my higher education. I am a second-year law student who plans to become a patent attorney. I am currently in the top 10% of my class with a 3.4 GPA.

Also, I am participating in the USPTO certified NCCU Patent Legal Clinic, where I am gaining vital experience towards my goal of working in the field of patent law. Receiving this award will help me pay for the required books for my last year of law school. This award also motivates me to maintain my GPA and complete my degree with honors. I look forward to being able to give back to the community once I begin my law career. Thank you for your confidence and willingness to help me achieve my goals.
TORRENCE BURNETT  
J.D. 2021  
SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER

I will be graduating on May 21, 2021. The funds received from the Tech Law Summit IP Achievement Award will be used to offset living expenditures, thereby allowing me to fully concentrate on studying for the July 2022 bar exam. Studying for the bar exam has been portrayed as an anxiety riddled experience that is exacerbated by the lack of financial income flowing into the household. Thus, I believe my chances of passing the bar exam on the first try increase when proceeded by the prospect of me being able to concentrate fully and wholly on studying for the July 2022 bar exam without worry of financial restraints.

Once I receive my bar roll license number in October 2022, I will be able to continue my role as music industry professional who seeks to protect the intellectual property of my clients. I have actively helped writers apply for copyrights and trademarks to protect their music and property. My goal is to be a disrupter in the music industry to ensure that persons engaged in the music industry will be able to own and benefit from their property and rights in ways that push back on the current status quo.

I will work to continue to enhance my knowledge and skills in the intellectual property sector to ensure that all communities in the music industry will be equitably represented and protected. As the venerated Clive Davis stated, “In this age when people expect to get their music for free, we have to work out how we can protect the rights of creative artists so they are compensated fairly and that the record business itself remains sound and healthy.”

JALYN WELLS  
J.D. CANDIDATE  
SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER

Thank you so much for the opportunity to receive this award. This Tech Law Achievement Award would pay for privacy certifications that I have planned to obtain during my time as a law student, prior to joining the legal workforce.

As a student with a new interest in data privacy, and technology I sometimes feel as if I am constantly playing a game of catch up in this field. This award would allow me to bolster my knowledge and to further my research and studies regarding the technology space.

I would also hope that this award would open the door for a relationship between myself and this organization moving forward. I feel that supporting this organization in any way that I can would help to shape my view of the field and to further incorporate myself into this space.

DALTON BRESHEARS  
J.D. CANDIDATE 2023  
SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER

To the Institute for Intellectual Property and Social Justice Team, I would like to start off by saying how grateful I am for being granted this wonderful Tech Law Policy Achievement Award. The award money I will receive from being granted this award will go directly towards a new computer and travel expenses. My wife and I will be moving to Austin, Texas upon my graduation in May of this year and I need a newer more reliable computer to start off my legal career.

There are many new major tech organizations and firms moving to Austin and I have applied to several of them in the hopes that I will secure a job in the legal/tech world. I have had multiple call backs and have two interviews scheduled for next week. I’m very excited to continue my advocacy in the tech world and to be moving to an area of the country that is on track to be top 3 locations in the country for technology companies and firms.

I will continue to be a strong advocate for social justice by using my platform to advocate for meaningful change in the systems that have consistently oppressed select groups. I will use my knowledge and training in law school and my experience working with the United States Patent and Trademark Office attorneys to continue to help local business obtain copyright and trademark rights in their property.

I understand my responsibility and duty to give back to those who have been less fortunate than myself, and to honor those who have paved the way for me to be successful. This award will help make it financially viable for my wife and I to move to Austin for me to pursue my dreams, and for that I am eternally grateful.
To the HBCU Microsoft Tech Law Summit, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for this HBCU Tech Law Policy award. It could not have come at a better time as I am preparing to graduate from law school and sit for the bar exam. I plan on using this money to pay for my bar application and my expenses. I really appreciate this so much.

Thank you again.

Herbert Brown  
J.D. Candidate 2022  
North Carolina Central University

I am immensely honored and humbled to receive this prestigious award. I sincerely thank the HBCU Microsoft Tech Law Summit, North Carolina Central University School of Law, and Associate Dean of Technology and Innovation, April Dawson (NCCU School of Law), for my nomination and selection for the HBCU Microsoft Tech Law Summit D&I in Tech Ally Award. I commend the work being done by this organization and its willingness to explore technological solutions to issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the legal space. Additionally, I applaud the support this organization extends to HBCUs and students such as myself. I intend to utilize the financial award to create an educational trust for my six-year-old son, William. I hope that William far exceeds anything I have ever accomplished in life one day.

Thanks again to all involved in this summit and congratulations to all my fellow award recipients!

Michee Jacobs  
J.D. Candidate  
Howard University School of Law

I would like to personally thank the Summit for my Diversity & Inclusion Ally Award. I am honored to have been selected for this award because it speaks directly to my purpose of increasing diversity in the field of tech law and reaching out to my peers to get them involved. While being a law student gets tough at times, organizations like IIPSJ make it so worth it! I hope to graduate and similarly inspire others as the speakers at the Tech Summit have inspired me. The award stipend will be a great benefit to me this summer as I prepare for my final year of law school. This award will greatly help me balance the cost of living, along with bar prep expenses, so that I may be an ongoing asset to my community. I intend to use this stipend to purchase textbooks for the upcoming semester and to contribute to expenses for bar preparation.
EXCELLENCE IS DIVERSITY

Diversity is essential to providing excellence to our clients. Investing in diversity and inclusion is more than smart business—it is who we are. In all respects, we drive excellence and diversity to resolve our clients’ most complex business and legal challenges.

*Perkins Coie is proud to sponsor the 2023 5th Annual HBCU Tech Law Summit as it aims to educate minority legal professionals on various issues and opportunities in the tech industry. We share its commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.*