

# Alumni News

Summer/Fall 2024

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## Diversity News

### Kramer Levin Recommits to Mansfield Certification

Kramer Levin is deeply committed to fostering an inclusive culture and embracing a diverse workforce. One way we demonstrate this commitment is through our participation in the Mansfield Certification process. **Mansfield** is a yearlong, structured certification process designed to ensure all law firm talent has a fair and equal opportunity to advance into leadership positions.



**Mansfield Rule**  
Participating Law Firm  
2024-2025  
Powered by DIVERSITY.LAB

A participant since July 2021, we are proud today to **announce our continued participation** in the Mansfield Certification for the 2024 – 2025 cycle.

## Firm Hosts Legal Outreach Summer Interns

This summer, Kramer Levin welcomed summer interns from **Legal Outreach** for the 20th consecutive year. Eight rising high school sophomores participated in the program, learning about our practice areas, participating in skill-building exercises and working on a major litigation project that culminated in a mock oral argument.

Legal Outreach prepares urban youth from underserved communities in New York City to compete at high academic levels. Working with kids in grades eight through 12, the organization offers intensive legal and educational programs as tools for fostering vision, developing skills, enhancing confidence and facilitating the pursuit of higher education.

This internship would not have been possible without the efforts of our exceptional volunteer group, including a number of dedicated lawyers, summer associates and SEO interns.



## Cultural Observances

### Pride Month Self-Determination for Older LGBTQ Adults Advance Planning Clinic



In honor of Pride Month, Kramer Levin hosted a Self-Determination for Older LGBTQ Adults Advance Planning Clinic with the **New York Legal Assistance Group** and Deloitte to support low-income New Yorkers with the completion of vital life planning documents. Participants received a one-hour CLE training on the execution of powers of attorney, living wills, health care proxies and the Appointment of Agent to Control Disposition of Remains. Following the training, participants met with pro bono clients to explain the different advance directives and help them prepare and execute tailored, effective documents that will protect their interests and maximize their autonomy by avoiding the need for guardianship in the future.



### Juneteenth Celebration: 'The Latest Word on Freedom' With Adrian Miller

This year's Juneteenth celebration featured food writer, James Beard Award winner, attorney and certified barbecue judge **Adrian Miller**. Mr. Miller offered an overview of the various emancipation that emerged in the 19th century, the food traditions associated with the holiday today and what they mean to African

Americans. He also shared how Juneteenth began in Galveston, TX, and spread across the U.S., how the day became a federal holiday and the social justice challenges that remain for our society.

Mr. Miller was introduced by Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer **Nada Llewellyn**, who also facilitated a Q&A.

### Disability Pride Month Celebration: 'Unlocking Brilliance: Embracing Neurodiversity in the Legal World,' With Julie Caron Remer

On July 30, in celebration of **Disability Pride Month**, **Julie Caron Remer**, a professional coach and former litigator, spoke to the firm about ways to build an inclusive environment for colleagues across the neurodiversity spectrum.



## Alumni Moves

Several members of the Kramer Levin community have moved on to positions outside the firm. We wish them the best of luck in their new endeavors!



**Leah Friedman** has taken on the role of vice president and senior counsel in the litigation department at Goldman Sachs.



**Lee Turner Friedman** is pursuing her own business, Mango Tree Travel.



**Hannah Lee** has joined Genentech as senior patent litigation counsel specialist, assistant general counsel.

## What are you up to?

We track moves to in-house positions, government and nonprofits. If you have moved or would like to be included in a future Alumni Moves announcement, please email us at [alumni@kramerlevin.com](mailto:alumni@kramerlevin.com).

## New Laterals



### Robert (Bodie) Stewart – Partner, Special Situations

Kramer Levin is pleased to welcome **Robert (Bodie) Stewart** as a partner in the firm's Special Situations practice and member of the Corporate department.

Bodie advises creditors, ad hoc groups and companies on the capital markets and financing aspects of complex U.S. and cross-border restructuring matters, including out-of-court debt restructurings and liability management transactions, as well as on prepackaged, prearranged and free-fall bankruptcies. He also counsels issuers and financial institutions on public and private capital markets transactions.



### Richard A. Sauber – Partner, White Collar Defense and Government Investigations and Congressional Investigations

The firm is pleased to welcome **Richard A. Sauber** as a partner in our White Collar Defense and Government Investigations and Congressional Investigations groups.

Dick represents corporations and individuals in criminal and civil fraud cases, particularly in False Claims Act matters, as well as in congressional investigations. He joins Kramer Levin after serving as general counsel of the Department of Veterans Affairs, overseeing the 600 lawyers in the Office of General Counsel.

## Events

### Firm Sponsors Asian American Bar Association of New York Annual Dinner



On May 22, many members of the Kramer Levin community attended the **Asian American Bar Association of New York (AABANY)** Annual Dinner at Cipriani Wall Street. Kramer Levin was a Platinum Sponsor of the event, which centered on the theme “Building a Strong Foundation for a Brighter Future.” The dinner also honored Judge Denny Chin with AABANY’s Impact Leadership Award and Iris Lan with AABANY’s Public Service Award.

(L to R) Rohit Biswas, Edward Chen, Tao Li, Nicole Chong, Renee Yao, Marie Soga, Terrence Shen, Nada Lewellyn, Kenneth Chin, Claudia Pak and Gilbert Liu

### Nicole Fenton Moderates Panel at ULI New York 'Access To Capital' Conference

Inequity continues to plague the real estate industry. Despite recent initiatives, access to capital remains the biggest challenge for women and BIPOC developers. **ULI New York** hosted a conference on June 11, “**Creating The Roadmap: Access To Capital.**” Kramer Levin counsel **Nicole Fenton** moderated a panel titled “Creating A Pathway To Equity: Challenges and Opportunities.”

Nicole was joined by **Baaba Halm**, vice president and market leader, Enterprise Community Partners; **Karim Hutson**, president and CEO, Genesis Cos.; **Ermias Nessibu**, principal, GCM Grosvenor; and **Michael Zito**, managing director, Belay Investment Group.



Nicole Fenton



(L to R) Baaba Halm, Michael Zito, Ermias Nessibu and Karim Hutson with moderator Nicole Fenton



(L to R) Karim Hutson and Nicole Fenton

## Jennifer Windom Represents Kramer Levin in Diversity Lab's 'Moments to Movements Hackathon'



Partner **Jennifer Windom** joined more than 100 law firm partners, legal department leaders and industry experts in a competition to solve some of the most challenging DEI issues facing the legal industry as part of Diversity Lab's "Moments to Movements Hackathon."



Beginning in March, Jenn and her fellow participants collaborated in small teams to develop ideas to address challenges around DEI in the legal community and to improve inclusive workplace talent systems. The teams pitched their solutions to a panel of judges and an audience of 200-plus leaders at NYU School of Law on July 11.

## Diversity and Inclusion Team Hosts Diversity and Inclusion Belonging BBQ

On July 17, the Diversity and Inclusion Team invited summer associates and members of the firm's affinity and resource groups, Women's Initiative Committee, Women's Circles and Diversity Committee to join our second annual Belonging BBQ.



(L to R) Ed Chen, Susan John and Terry Shen



(L to R) Neil Joyce, Devyani Pejathaya, Veronica Ortiz and Jamie Kocis



(L to R) Giulia Pines, Stephen Ferguson and Yasho Lahiri

## Kramer Levin Basketball Team Makes Spring Season Playoffs

The Kramer Levin basketball team finished its spring season having made it to the first round of the playoffs! Representing the firm at the playoffs were paralegal Nathan Abramowitz, summer associate Joshua Averbach, associate **Steven Ficurilli**, Brandon Gregory, associate **Daniel Ketani**, law clerk **Evan Raskin** and associate **Ashish Virmani**. Congratulations to the team on their impressive showing!



(L to R) Joshua Averbach, Daniel Ketani, Steven Ficurilli, Brandon Gregory, Ashish Virmani and Nathan Abramowitz

## Bankruptcy and Restructuring Golf Outing Celebrates 25 Years

Thanks to our alumni who attended the Bankruptcy and Restructuring Group's annual golf outing at Montammy Golf Club. David Braun (Gordon Brothers), Saul Burian (Houlihan Lokey), Marc Goodman (Zeus Real Estate) and Marc Schwartz (Taconic Capital) joined 95 guests to celebrate the 25th anniversary of this popular event. We were excited to see familiar faces out on the links.



### InterFace Net Lease Conference 2024



On Sept. 17, we were proud to sponsor the InterFace Net Lease Conference for the third consecutive year. This event marked the third year that Real Estate partner **Tzvi Rokeach** moderated a panel. Tzvi’s panel this year, “What’s the Current and 2025 Outlook for the Sale-Leaseback Market?,” featured David Grazioli, managing partner of USRA; Mike Fitzgerald, executive director and head of U.S. retail, W. P. Carey; Jared Ciejek, partner at LCN Capital Partners; and Tom Decarlo, managing director of New Mountain Capital. The Net Lease conference covered investment, development and financing trends amid continuing challenging market conditions and was attended by triple net lease industry leaders from across the country.

### Restructuring and Special Situations — Office Hours



Kramer Levin’s Restructuring and Special Situations groups hosted a special edition of Office Hours on Sept. 18. In addition to our quarterly evening

networking event at St. Cloud Rooftop, we invited friends and clients to join us at our New York office for a pre-reception panel, “The Rise of Cooperation Agreements.” Bankruptcy and Restructuring partners **Rachael Ringer** and **Alexander Woolverton** explored lenders’ increasingly frequent reliance on cooperation agreements to navigate restructurings with distressed companies.

Let us know if you’d like to be included in our [event invitation lists](#). We hope to see you soon!

## Awards and Recognitions

For a complete look at all awards and recognitions, please visit our [website!](#)

### Dani James Named to Benchmark Litigation’s Top 250 Women in Litigation



Litigation partner **Dani James** was named to *Benchmark Litigation*’s 2024 list of the **Top 250 Women in Litigation**, marking her third consecutive year being recognized. The annual Top 250 Women in Litigation selection process, which includes client feedback and peer review, culminates in the selection of the most distinguished women in litigation.



### Paul Schoeman and Howard Spilko Named to City & State New York’s 2024 Manhattan Power 100



Co-managing partners **Paul Schoeman** and **Howard Spilko** were named to *City & State New York*’s **2024 Manhattan Power 100** for the fourth consecutive year. This annual list recognizes industry and political leaders in the borough who have had a notable impact.



### Kramer Levin Recognized at GlobalCapital US Securitization Awards



(L to R) Laura Perdomo Diaz, Maxwell Kraus, Anne-Sophie Tomé and William Cavanagh

In May, our Securitization team was named Esoteric ABS Law Firm of the Year at the GlobalCapital US Securitization Awards 2024. The firm was also recognized as part of the deal team for Esoteric ABS Deal of the Year and ESG Deal of the Year for the SNVA-2023 GRID1 deal.



(L to R) David Berg, Gilbert Liu and Daniel Michaelson

## Kramer Levin Honored at LBG Social Impact Awards

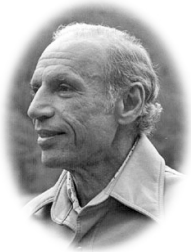
Legal Benchmarking Group (LBG) has honored Kramer Levin with two 2024 Social Impact awards. Our Employees with Disabilities affinity group received the award for Disability Advocacy Program of the Year, and the firm received the Pro Bono Social Impact Case of the Year award for our efforts toward securing the right to effective assistance of counsel in New York City family and criminal courts. Partner **Michael Dell**, special counsel **Jason Moff** and associate **Rachel Czwartacky** all worked on the right to effective assistance of counsel matter.



Celebrating the law firms that are making a difference in helping create a legal profession that reflects the diversity of the society it serves, the awards were presented on June 20 at the Metropolitan Club in New York City.



## Kramer Levin Hosts the 10th Annual Marvin Frankel Pro Bono Awards

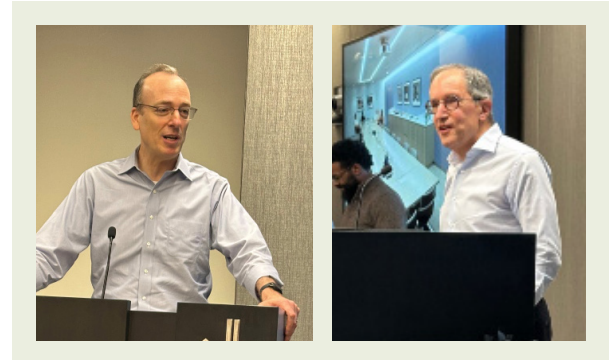


The 10th Annual Marvin Frankel Pro Bono Awards Ceremony took place on July 16. The event honored lawyers and staff for their hard work and dedication to pro bono at Kramer Levin.

We wish to congratulate the winners of the 2024 Marvin Frankel Awards for Outstanding Pro Bono Contributions. The Racial Justice Initiative Award was given to the East 177 Realty LLC team (**Bob Schmidt**, **Joe Shifer**, **Rose Bagley** and **Wendy Kane**). Team awards went to the S.I. team (**Jonathan Wagner**, **Boaz Cohen**, **Phil King** and former associate Daria Schieferstein) and the Everytown for Gun Safety team (led by **Michael Dell** and supported by more than two dozen members of the Kramer Levin community). **Lily Suris** in the Managing Attorney's Office received the Larry Williams Staff Award, and the Team Staff Award went to the Spanish-language interpreter team of **Marisol Casilla**, **Ines Dominguez**, **Veronica Ortiz**, **Celia Reyes**, **Gisselle Sabala** and **Rachel Torres**.

The ceremony also recognized those members of our community who rose to the Pro Bono Challenge, achieving 10-, 50- and 100-hour thresholds of pro bono legal work and community service, including board service, in 2023.

The 2024 Selection Committee included **Christopher Auguste**, **Aaron Frankel**, **Nada Llewellyn**, **Jamie Porco**, **Robert Schmidt**, **Lauren Tapper** and **Jeffrey Trachtman**.



Alumnus Eric Tirschwell from Everytown for Gun Safety presents the award to Michael Dell and the Everytown team; Michael Dell speaks on behalf of the team



Jonathan Wagner discusses the S.I. team's work



Members of the Spanish-language interpreter team: (L to R) Celia Reyes, Veronica Ortiz, Ines Dominguez, Gisselle Sabala and Marisol Casilla



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### Alumni LinkedIn Group

Join our official **alumni network** on LinkedIn, where former Kramer Levin lawyers and staff can stay in touch with the firm, connect with each other and learn about professional development opportunities.