

# Mosaic

CARLTON  
FIELDS  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

March 2008 | Issue 4

*This newsletter describes our ongoing diversity efforts with our clients, in our communities, and at our law firm. We believe that as we continue a dialogue we will create greater opportunities for advancement of diversity.*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Celebrate Diversity . . . . .	1
Tobias Simon Pro Bono Service Award . . . . .	2
Documentary Explores Consequences of Homophobia . . . . .	4
CF Diversity Annual Report . . . . .	5
ABA Women in Law Leadership Academy . . . . .	5
Notable Victories . . . . .	6
WIN Hosts Renowned Chef . . . . .	7
Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr. Gala Keynote Speaker . . . . .	7
Recent Achievements . . . . .	8-9
Minority and Women Attorneys . . . . .	10-12

## CARLTON FIELDS CELEBRATES DIVERSITY: LUNCH WITH THE REV. DR. JOSEPH E. LOWERY

Carlton Fields' Celebration of Black History Month culminated with a firmwide Soul Food Luncheon featuring esteemed civil rights leader Rev. Dr. Joseph E. Lowery as our honored guest speaker. As each of the offices provided an excellent meal that satisfied everyone's hunger, Dr. Lowery provided attorneys and staff with a history lesson and inspiration that satisfied their hearts and souls. Firm President and CEO, **Gary Sasso**,



introduced Dr. Lowery to a packed house in Atlanta and an even larger audience participating via videoconference throughout the Firm's Florida offices. Everyone in attendance listened with rapt attention as the Dean of the Civil Rights Movement shared his perspectives and stories.

Dr. Lowery had his audience hanging on his every word as he shared numerous tales of both his own efforts and those of his fellow civil rights champions, such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Congressman John Lewis (D-Ga), to combat the horrors of segregation and oppression during the Jim Crow era.

One particularly moving story was a tale of Dr. Lowery's personal struggle to integrate a whites-only diner in Nashville. On a daily basis, the white waitress refused to serve him. After public accommodations in Nashville were finally desegregated, Dr. Lowery again entered the diner. This time,

the waitress asked if she could buy his meal, tearfully explaining how much it had hurt her, as a Christian woman, to have to repeatedly refuse to serve him due to the segregationist policy. That story was indicative of Dr. Lowery's belief that segregation oppressed and dehumanized



Top: Firm President and CEO, Gary Sasso, and Dr. Joseph Lowery. Bottom: Dr. Lowery speaking to Carlton Fields' Atlanta office.

not only black Americans but white Americans as well by creating and reinforcing artificial barriers between the races. He therefore posited that the desegregation movement strengthened America as a whole, by lifting the onerous psychological burdens that segregation imposed on all Americans.

*Continued on page 3.*

## TOBIAS SIMON PRO BONO SERVICE AWARD WINNER: SYLVIA H. WALBOLT

On January 31, 2008 the Florida Supreme Court presented Tampa shareholder **Sylvia Walbolt** (Appellate Practice & Trial Support) with the Tobias Simon Pro Bono Service Award. The Tobias Simon Award is given annually by the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court to the one attorney in Florida who has given the most outstanding service in the area of pro bono legal assistance. This statewide award is given in the name of former Miami civil rights lawyer Tobias Simon, who sought equal access to justice for all segments of society for many years.

The emphasis for the award is on the direct delivery of legal services, free-of-charge, to the poor or, in some instances, to charitable organizations whose primary purpose is to provide other services to the poor. For more than 40 years, Sylvia has made extraordinary pro bono contributions, both directly to those in need and through organizations committed to providing access to justice for all.

Sylvia personally contributes hundreds of hours every year to pro bono representations, handling matters that run the gamut in substance and locale, both civil and criminal. Her impact as a defender of the poor, much like her reputation, extends beyond the borders of the state of Florida.

In addition to her direct pro bono involvement, for many years Sylvia has been actively involved in organizations whose primary mission is to ensure equal access to justice and/or to promote pro bono representation. For example, she serves on the Board of Trustees for the Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights

Under Law, a national organization that utilizes the skills and resources of the bar to obtain equal opportunity for minorities by addressing factors that contribute to racial justice and economic opportunity. She also serves on its Amicus Briefs Committee, which prepares and files amicus briefs, on a pro bono basis, in cases of widespread public interest.

Sylvia is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and chaired its national Access to Justice and Legal Services Committee. She served as the catalyst within the College to institute and implement a program encouraging experienced trial lawyers to assume personal responsibility for pro bono cases of importance to the public at large. She is the former chair of the College's Florida Access to Justice and Legal Services Committee, which serves as a

leader in pro bono legal services and monitors the pro bono activities of organizations throughout the state.

Her work with the Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and the American College of Trial Lawyers Access to Justice Committee are just two examples of

Sylvia's outstanding contributions towards creating new or expanded means of access to the legal system for those in need.



Top: Carlton Fields attorneys gather around Walbolt after the ceremony in Tallahassee. Bottom: Walbolt accepting the Tobias Simon Award.

*Continued on page 3.*

## SYLVIA H. WALBOLT CONTINUED

Sylvia also has worked tirelessly to preserve funding for legal service programs in Florida. She is a Life Member of The Florida Bar Foundation, the only statewide organization that provides financial support for legal aid and promotes improvements in addressing the civil legal needs of the poor. Sylvia has served as The Foundation's president, vice president, assistant secretary, and director. She also willingly provides counsel to The Foundation when called upon to do so.

A strong advocate of pro bono services within the profession, Sylvia has encouraged others to perform pro bono service and has worked to maintain a culture within Carlton Fields that encourages pro bono work. She established and was the first chair of the Firm's Pro Bono Committee. Her efforts in this respect not only have encouraged countless other attorneys to provide pro bono legal representation, but also have ensured that the Firm's commitment to pro bono service will be passed on to the next generation of attorneys.

During the presentation of the prestigious Tobias Simon Award, the courtroom was packed, with standing-room only, and many leaders of the Bench and Bar were present for the

ceremony. In addition to Sylvia's husband Dan and son Dan Jr., Carlton Fielders from several offices attended to support her and to witness this great honor, including: **Dan Brown, Marti Chumbler, Kelly Cruz-Brown, Chrissy Davis, Dan DeCubellis, Mike Donaldson, Rheb Harbison, Fred Hawkes, Joe Lang, Kathy McLeroy, Edith Osman, Terry Rigsby, Gary Sasso, Reece Smith, Beth Vecchioli, and Gwynne Young.**

Firm President and CEO, **Gary Sasso**, observed, "It was strikingly obvious that every Justice on the Court holds Sylvia in the highest regard. Several of the Justices stretched over the Bench to embrace her as she thanked each of them for this recognition, and they were all beaming with affection and appreciation as she stood before the Bench on this rare occasion when she was not advocating a client's cause.

I was so proud of Sylvia for all she has done over the years for many, many people who could not otherwise have access to legal services and for representing the very best of Carlton Fields. Sylvia is living proof that great lawyers can, and should, also be great human beings."

## REV. DR. JOSEPH E. LOWERY CONTINUED

Dr. Lowery shared other thoughts and reflections for an hour that seemed to go by in minutes. At some points he made the audience laugh with his many humorous observations; at others he made them cry with stories of the struggles of the Civil Rights Movement. Ultimately, his message was clear: while we have come a long way as Americans to live up to our founding fathers' proclamation that all men are created equal, much work is still left to be done. He reminded us that,

as attorneys, we are a privileged group and must live up to our obligation to continue the work of the champions of the Civil Rights Movement, such as himself, Dr. King, Congressman Lewis, Jesse Jackson, and Robert F. Kennedy. When Dr. Lowery finished speaking, he received a standing ovation. All Carlton Fielders were fortunate to receive inspiration from a great man and an even better human being during an hour that was living history for us all.

## ORLANDO SHAREHOLDER AND PARTNER PRODUCE DOCUMENTARY EXPLORING CONSEQUENCES OF HOMOPHOBIA

Orlando shareholder **Mary Meeks** and her partner, television and documentary producer Vicki Nantz, have collaborated to produce the feature documentary "Accessory to Murder: Our Culture's Complicity in the Death of Ryan Skipper." The documentary was inspired by the life and death of Ryan Skipper, a 25-year-old gay man who was murdered in a brutal hate crime on March 14, 2007, in Central Florida. The film honors Ryan's life by examining the societal influences that contribute to such crimes.

Vicki has 20 years of directing experience in Orlando (WESH-TV News and The Golf Channel), and currently works as an independent filmmaker. Mary has been an attorney in the civil rights field for almost 20 years and has been with Carlton Fields Orlando office since last January. Mary is a Board member of the Metropolitan Business Association, a gay and lesbian chamber of commerce, and a Committee member of Come Out With Pride, the organization that sponsors Central Florida's annual gay pride celebration.

Mary and Vicki produced the documentary in association with Ryan Skipper's family and Equality Florida, a statewide education and advocacy organization dedicated to eliminating discrimination based on sexual orientation, race, gender and class. Mary and Vicki's decision to produce the documentary was fueled by their anger about Ryan's murder and the events that took place both prior to and after his death. In researching the documentary, Mary and Vicki interviewed Ryan's parents and older brother, as well as many of his friends. They learned that Ryan had been harassed, discriminated against, and verbally and physically assaulted repeatedly throughout his life because of his sexual orientation. After his murder, Ryan was further victimized by a homophobic sheriff who made stereotypical false and demeaning comments about Ryan, going so far as to blame him for his own murder. Mary and Vicki felt compelled to stand up for Ryan, his family and friends, and the

Mary and Vicki felt compelled to stand up for Ryan, his family and friends, and the gay community. At the same time, they wanted to create an educational tool in the fight against anti-gay bigotry and violence.

gay community. At the same time, they wanted to create an educational tool in the fight against anti-gay bigotry and violence, explaining, "The driving motivation behind the documentary was our concern and opinion that leaders in our society must be held responsible for inciting hate and violence against the LGBT community."

The documentary features interviews with Ryan's family and many of his friends, as well as various Central Florida community leaders, including Orlando City Commissioner Patty Sheehan, Rollins College Professor Kathryn Norsworthy, civil rights activist Debbie Simmons, Rev. Phyllis Hunt of Tampa's Metropolitan Community Church, and Brian Winfield of Equality Florida.

The documentary has been shown at numerous private screenings for PFLAG (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) groups, and LGBT student groups across the country, including Texas, Kansas, Illinois, California, Washington, Ohio, New Jersey, and even Canada.

The first public showings of the documentary were timed to coincide with the first anniversary of Ryan's death. The documentary premiered on March 3, 2008, at Rollins College, an event sponsored by Rollins, and endorsed by Equality Florida, the Metropolitan Business Association, and the Ryan Skipper Fund. At the premier, Mary presented a contribution to the Ryan Skipper Fund on behalf of Carlton Fields. The screening was followed by a panel discussion that included Mary and Vicki, members of Ryan's family, and local community leaders.

Additional public screenings took place in March at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, the Winter Haven campus of Polk Community College, Florida Southern College in Lakeland, and an Equality Florida event in Tampa. The Polk County chapter of PFLAG will host another screening and panel discussion on Monday, April 14, 2008, at the Lakeland Public Library.

Additional information about the documentary and copies of the DVD for purchase may be found at <http://www.ryanskipperdocumentary.com>.



Meeks

## CARLTON FIELDS RELEASES 2007 ANNUAL DIVERSITY REPORT

Carlton Fields has released its 2007 Annual Diversity Report, which demonstrates that the Firm has continued its longstanding commitment to improve the hiring, retention, and promotion of diverse attorneys.

In 2007, Carlton Fields implemented new diversity programs and initiatives including:

- the formation of the Gay and Lesbian Equality Network (GLEN), which aims to ensure that Carlton Fields is a welcoming and nurturing environment for our gay and lesbian employees; and
- the first annual firmwide Diversity Week, during which a variety of activities were held in all offices to recognize the unique cultures and perspectives of Carlton Fields' attorneys and staff.

The 2007 Annual Diversity Report contains detailed information about these initiatives and other diversity programs implemented by Carlton Fields over the past year. Publishing the report is in keeping with the goals of Carlton Fields' Diversity Program, which was created in 2001 to further the Firm's efforts to (1) increase representation of minority lawyers in the firm; (2) develop policies and practices that define and transmit the firm's commitment to diversity; and (3) establish accountability standards and measure progress.

The program is overseen by the Diversity Committee, co-chaired by Miami shareholder **Jason Murray** and Tampa shareholder **Nancy Faggianelli**.

The 2007 Annual Diversity Report can be read online at <http://www.carltonfields.com/files/upload/2007%20Diversity%20Report.pdf>.

## CARLTON FIELDS SPONSORS ABA WOMEN IN LAW LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

**Carlton Fields** was a Patron Sponsor of the Third Annual Women in Law Leadership (WILL) Academy held in Chicago, Illinois on November 8-9, 2007. The conference was jointly held by the American Bar Association (ABA) Commission on Women in the Profession and the ABA Young Lawyers Division.

Over the course of the two-day conference, women lawyers from across the United States attended workshops, seminars, and break-out sessions intended to empower early- to mid-career women lawyers by enhancing their leadership skills, motivating them to stay in the profession, and instilling in them the capacity to direct their own careers more effectively through mentors and networking.

Among the topics presented at the conference were: "Mentoring 101: How to Find One, How to Be One," "Skills and Strategies for Successful Negotiating," and "Women's Initiatives in the Work Place."



The conference also included keynote speeches from three dynamic speakers, Paula E. Boggs, General Counsel for Starbucks Corporation; Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, Former Lieutenant Governor of Maryland; and the Honorable Ann Claire Williams, Circuit Judge for the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

Attending the conference on Carlton Fields' behalf were Shareholders **Johanna Clark** (Orlando) and **Penelope Dixon** (Tampa), and Associates **Kimberly Gustafson** (St.

Petersburg), **Kenya Reddy** (Tampa), and **Stephanie Zimmerman** (St. Petersburg).

Information about WILL and program materials can be found at <http://www.abanet.org/women/leadershipacademy/program-agenda.html>.

## NOTABLE VICTORIES

Miami shareholders **Leo Lagomasino** (Insurance) and **Nancy Ciampa** (Appellate Practice & Trial Support) achieved a significant victory in a recent insurance case, *Jacques v. Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States*. On January 9, 2008, Florida's Fourth District Court of Appeal issued a five-page opinion affirming the trial court's Final Summary Judgment in favor of Leo and Nancy's client.



Lagomasino

Substantively, the opinion is useful outside of the insurance context because it addresses and reaffirms the economic loss rule in Florida. The Fourth District Court of Appeal's opinion may be read at: <http://www.4dca.org/Jan2008/01-09-2008/4D07-731.op.pdf>.

Tallahassee shareholder **Marti Chumblor** (Government Law & Consulting) and associate **Chrissy Davis** (Appellate Practice & Trial Support) won an appeal in a case in which the Firm represented the Bay County School Superintendent. In *McCalister v. School Bd. of Bay County*, Florida's First District Court of Appeal set forth important distinctions between the rights and obligations of district school boards and school superintendents and the application of good cause required to overturn a superintendent recommendation under Florida law. Carlton Fields represented Superintendent McCalister.

Tampa shareholder **Nancy Faggianelli** (Business Litigation & Trade Regulation) and Miami associate **Erin Kinney** (Appellate Practice & Trial Support) won a pro bono appeal in the First District Court of Appeal on behalf of a victim of domestic violence who had been ordered to attend a batterer's intervention program along with her abuser.



Lumish

Miami shareholder **Wendy Lumish** (Appellate Practice & Trial Support) obtained an important victory in Florida's Third District Court of Appeal that reversed a \$60 million judgment in a Ford Explorer rollover case. The decedent was a young man who died in a rollover accident. Plaintiff's national counsel accused Ford of "killing hundreds

of people" and interjected numerous improper references to other accidents and subsequent remedial measures. The jury awarded each of the decedent's parents \$30 million. In overturning the jury verdict, the court's opinion thoroughly discusses the law on the substantial similarity requirement for admission of other accident evidence. The opinion is a significant result for the products liability defense bar.

Wendy was assisted by many members the Appellate & Trial Support Practice Group, particularly **John Blue**, **Sylvia Walbolt**, **Gary Sasso**, and **Joe Lang**, who helped prepare her for the oral argument.

Tampa associate **Amanda Arnold Sansone** (Business Litigation & Trade Regulation) won summary judgment in state court in a pro bono case on behalf of a small church, Temple of the Apostles. The church sued the niece and nephew of the former pastor of the church because the former pastor (now deceased) sold the church property to them for pennies on the dollar without notifying the church's Board of Directors or the members of the church, as required by Florida law.



Sansone

The trial court ruled that the sale was unlawful and should be set aside, and that the church property should be returned to the church. Tampa shareholder **Gwynne Young** (Business Litigation & Trade Regulation) supervised Amanda on the case and numerous associates (including summer associates and Carlton Fields Diversity Fellows) also assisted with the case.

Miami shareholder **Cristina Alonso** (Appellate Practice & Trial Support) successfully represented a woman in a pro bono family law case where her former husband and father of the parties' child appealed the trial court's determination that a Kentucky court had jurisdiction to determine the issue of child custody after the mother and child fled Florida to avoid the abusive father. The Third District Court of Appeal granted a PCA on December 26, 2007. Miami shareholder **Wendy Lumish** (Appellate Practice & Trial Support) and summer associate **Naomi Massave** also assisted with this case.

## MIAMI CHAPTER OF WIN HOSTS RENOWNED CHEF ALICE WATERS

On November 13, 2007, the Miami chapter of the Firm's Women's Initiative Network (WIN) held its inaugural reception for "A Celebration of Women," a series of events to be hosted by Miami WIN two or three times a year as part of an effort to bring together Carlton Fields' female attorneys with other women in the Miami business community. This first event was organized by Miami shareholder **Leo Lagomasino** (Insurance) and attracted more than 50 successful, professional women from South Florida. The private reception, held at Books & Books in Coral Gables, honored renowned chef and bestselling author Alice Waters.

Ms. Waters is widely regarded as one of the most influential American chefs, and is credited with inventing "California cuisine." She is the founder and co-owner of Chez Panisse, the world-famous restaurant in Berkeley, California. Among other things, Ms. Waters is notable for promoting organic and small farm products heavily in her restaurants and in her books.



Chef and author, Alice Waters, signing a copy of her book.

Indeed, the importance of eating organically and locally grown foods was the subject of Ms. Waters' presentation at "A Celebration of Women." She discussed her concept of the "Edible Schoolyard," a program at the King Middle School in Berkeley, which encourages children to grow their own food and then prepare and eat it as part of the curriculum.

"Schools can act as an engine for building an economy by using local and sustainable agriculture," she said. "I feel the only way we are going to conquer the serious issues we have in this country is by teaching every child." To this end, her idea of "edible education" has been introduced into the entire Berkeley school system, and has attracted national media attention as a possible way to address the current crisis in childhood obesity.

At the conclusion of Ms. Waters' presentation, each guest in attendance received a copy of her latest book, *The Art of Simple Food*, presented in Carlton Fields monogrammed gift bags, as a gift from Miami WIN.

## CARLTON FIELDS' ATTORNEY SERVES AS SPEAKER OF WILKIE D. FERGUSON, JR. SCHOLARSHIP GALA

Carlton Fields shareholder **Jason Murray** (Business Litigation & Trade Regulation) recently served as keynote speaker at the Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr. Bar Foundation's 2007-2008 Scholarship Banquet & Gala - "Commemorating 30 Years of Excellence."

The gala, held at the Marriott Biscayne Bay Miami, presented scholarships to four students enrolled at the University of Miami School of Law and one from the Florida International University College of Law. Several individuals also were honored for their work in the community.

The Wilkie D. Ferguson Bar Association's mission is to advocate for the inclusion of people of color in every aspect of the legal profession; to increase enrollment, retention, and graduation

of black law students; to foster and encourage professional excellence; to uphold the honor and integrity of the legal profession; and to protect the civil and human rights of all people.

Jason, a former President of the Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr. Bar Association, practices general commercial litigation in state and federal courts including franchise, intellectual property, real property, securities, and insurance matters. He serves on the Executive Council of the Business Law Section of The Florida Bar and is the former Chair of the Antitrust, Franchise & Trade Regulation Committee of the Business Law Section. He also co-chairs the Carlton Fields' Diversity Committee.



Murray

## RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR WOMEN AND MINORITY ATTORNEYS

**Carlton Fields** recently was recognized twice for its significant efforts to promote diversity within the Firm. First, the Firm made the 2008 Top 100 Law Firms for Diversity in *MultiCultural Law Magazine*, ranking in its 5th Anniversary edition.

Secondly, the Firm also was selected to be ranked as one of the Top 100 Law Firms for Women, and appeared in the March 2008 issue of *Women 3.0* magazine, a sister publication of *MultiCultural Law Magazine* that promotes and enhances the importance of continued success for women in the corporate circuit.

Tallahassee government consultant **Beth Vecchioli** (Government Law & Consulting) was unanimously re-appointed to the Board of Governors of the Florida Workers Comp Joint Underwriting Association at the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday, October 16, 2007.



Vecchioli

Tallahassee shareholder **Kelly Cruz-Brown** (Government Law & Consulting) was appointed to the Tallahassee Memorial Cancer Center's Patient and Family Advisory Council. The Council seeks to improve the care and service that patients and families receive at Tallahassee Memorial Cancer Center.

Kelly was also listed in the 2007 *Who's Who Legal* in Insurance & Reinsurance.

Tampa associate **Joanna Garcia** (Business Litigation & Trade Regulation) was appointed to the Tampa Bay Hispanic Bar Association Board of Directors.



Garcia

Tampa associates **Rachel May** (White Collar Crime & Government Investigations) and **Dianne Triplett** (Energy) were selected for inclusion in *Tampa Bay Business Journal's* 30 Under 30 Class of 2007.

Tampa associate **Chris Smart** (Real Property Litigation) co-wrote an article entitled "America's Ongoing Property Rights Debate Reinvigorated: Legislative and Judicial Responses to Kelo" in the Fall issue of *State & Local Law News*, Vol. 31, No. 1.



Smart

Miami shareholder **Jason Murray** (Business Litigation & Trade Regulation) served as a panelist on "Minority Leaders in the Legal Profession: Navigating the Road to Success," which was held on October 24, 2007, by The University of Miami School of Law Center For Ethics & Public Service and UM's Black Law Students Association. Jason also was a panelist at the Focus on Small Business Conference on November 1, 2007, in Coral Gables, Florida where he spoke on "Franchising."

Orlando associate **Karen Persis** (Construction) is President Elect of the Central Florida Gator Club, the largest alumni chapter of the University of Florida Alumni Association.



Persis

Tampa shareholder **Laurel Lockett** (Environmental) was the recipient of the 2007 American Institute of Architects, Tampa Bay Chapter, President's Award.

Tampa shareholder **Sylvia Walbolt** (Appellate Practice & Trial Support) co-authored "Off The Record," Volume 81, No. 10, November 2007 in *The Florida Bar Journal*.

Tampa associate **Nicole Kibert** (Real Estate & Finance) became a certified mediator and a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Accredited Professional.



Kibert

Atlanta associate **Nestor Rivera** (Health Care) was appointed to two positions within the Health Law Litigation Committee of the American Bar Association Litigation Section. Nestor will hold the position of Web site Editor and will be the Co-Chairperson of the Licensing and Peer Review Subcommittee.



Rivera

Tampa associate **Stephanie Bolton** (Construction) was featured in the October/November issue of *Image*, the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) magazine. Stephanie was asked about industry trends in the area of construction law.

Tampa associate **Kenya Reddy** (Business Litigation & Trade Regulation) was appointed to the Board of the Ophelia Project of Tampa Bay.



Reddy

Atlanta associate **Katie Salinas** (Business Litigation & Trade Regulation) was reappointed to the Advisory Committee of the Atlanta Legal Aid Society.

Tampa shareholder **Kathy McLeroy** (Real Property Litigation), outgoing president of Bay Area Legal Services, Inc. was invited to attend the Bay Area Legal Services, Inc. board meeting on February 26, 2008. Kathy was asked to attend the meeting, call the meeting to order, introduce Judge James Moody of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, and have new officers sworn in by Judge Moody. However, the real reason she was invited was to be advised of a gift made by Bank of America and Kathleen Koch to Bay Area Legal Services in her honor. Bank of America funded the Family Forms Clinic training DVD and materials in Kathy's honor in recognition of her years of service to Bay Area.



McLeroy

Tampa shareholder **Penelope Dixon** (Products & Toxic Tort Liability) co-wrote, "Removal after Lowery v. Alabama Power Co. - A Whole New Bag of Tricks?" which was published in the Fall 2007 edition of the Florida Defense Lawyer's Association's *Trial Advocate Quarterly*. The article analyzes the Eleventh Circuit's decision in *Lowery* and its impact on removal practice.



Dixon

Tallahassee shareholder **Marti Chumbler** (Government Law & Consulting) was a moderator and a speaker at a Lorman seminar in Tallahassee on "Public Contracting in Florida," in January 2008. Marti also recently was certified as a specialist in State & Federal Government and Administrative Practice by The Florida Bar.

Tampa shareholder **Ellen Koehler Lyons** (Business Litigation & Trade Regulation) spoke to The Florida Bar Business Law Section, Bankruptcy/UCC Committee during The Florida Bar Mid-Year Meeting on the topic of "Offers of Judgment in State and Federal Courts."



Schultz-Kin

Tampa associate **Leslie Schultz-Kin** (Real Property Litigation) has been appointed by the Board of Directors of the Hillsborough County Bar Association to serve on the Board of Directors of Bay Area Legal Services, Inc.

Tampa associate **Henry Gyden** (Appellate Practice & Trial Support) recently spoke on "Criminal Law (State, Federal, and Appeals)," at the NAACP Legal Redress Committee Community Legal Workshop.

Tallahassee shareholder **Nancy Linnan** (Government Law & Consulting) co-organized and spoke at a 4-hour presentation on transportation concurrency at the Florida Chamber of Commerce's 24th Annual Growth Management and Environmental Permitting Short Course held in Daytona Beach on February 20, 2008.

## NEWLY ELECTED MINORITY AND FEMALE SHAREHOLDERS

On February 22, 2008, eight new shareholders were elected from within the Firm at the 2008 Annual Shareholder Meeting held in Tampa, Florida. Of these eight new shareholders, four were women and three were minorities. In addition to **Matt Cogburn**, **Mark Smith**, and **Marty Solomon**, the following attorneys are part of the new shareholder class:

### **Cristina Alonso**

(Miami) handles all aspects of appellate litigation in state and federal court, including brief writing and oral argument. She provides litigation support, including drafting and arguing complex pre-trial motions, case dispositive motions, jury instructions and post-trial motions. Cristina also offers legal assistance at trial. Her areas of concentration are products liability, complex commercial litigation and personal injury defense. Cristina received her J.D., with honors, from the University of Florida College of Law in 2000 and her B.A., with distinction, from the University of North Carolina at Asheville in 1997.



Alonso

**Amy Lane Hurwitz** (Miami) is a member of the Products & Toxic Tort Liability Practice Group. Her practice focuses on the defense of clients in personal injury and wrongful death actions, including

pharmaceutical and medical device litigation, as well as complex commercial disputes.

Amy has extensive experience litigating individual, mass tort, and class action matters in state and federal courts. Amy received her J.D., cum laude, from the University of Miami School of Law in 2000, her Master of Health Science from the University of Florida in 1995, and her B.S., with honors, from the University of Florida in 1994.



Hurwitz

**Johanna Clark** (Orlando) has a diverse practice in both federal and state courts with a particular emphasis on first and third party insurance litigation, insurance bad faith, and class action litigation. Her practice also includes products liability and housing discrimination claims, as well as business and commercial litigation. Johanna received her J.D., with honors, from the University of Florida College of Law in 1999 and her B.S., cum laude, from Florida State University in 1995.



Clark

**Penelope Dixon** (Tampa) is a member of the Firm's Products & Toxic Tort Liability, Pharmaceutical & Medical Device, Business Litigation & Trade Regulation, and Labor & Employment Practice

Groups. She has extensive experience in areas such as products liability, pharmaceutical and medical device mass tort litigation, commercial litigation, and automotive litigation. Penelope received her J.D. from Mercer University's Walter F. George College of Law in 2000 and her B.A. in Political Science, summa cum laude, from Alcorn State University in 1997.



Dixon

**Jason Quintero** (Tampa) focuses on all aspects of construction litigation, with an emphasis on lien law and surety disputes. He also has extensive experience in general commercial litigation, land use and zoning, adverse possession actions, quiet title actions, and mold litigation. Jason has extensive trial and alternative dispute resolution experience, representing a variety of clients at trial, mediation, and arbitration proceedings. He is admitted to practice in Florida, New York, and New Jersey. Jason received his J.D., cum laude, from Seton Hall University School of Law in 2000 and his B.A. in History from the University of Florida in 1996.



Quintero

## NEW MINORITY AND FEMALE ATTORNEYS

Carlton Fields is pleased to announce the most recent minority and women attorneys to join the Firm.

**Robert Macaulay** recently joined the Miami office as a shareholder in the Firm's Corporate, Securities & Tax Practice Group. Bob represents numerous domestic and international companies in a variety of transactions and ongoing business matters, including mergers and acquisitions, international transactions, domestic and offshore banking, and shareholder disputes. Prior to joining Carlton Fields, he was a partner with Adorno & Yoss in Miami, Florida. Bob received his J.D., cum laude, from Harvard Law School in 1983 and his B.S., with high honors, from the University of Florida in 1980.



Macaulay

The Firm also is pleased to announce the most recent of counsel and associates to join Carlton Fields.

**Nancy Flint** joined the Miami office as of counsel in the Firm's Intellectual Property & Technology Practice Group. Nancy's practice focuses on patent, trademark, and general commercial litigation, as well as patent and trademark prosecution and client counseling. She has experience in patent prosecution in varied technical fields including biomedical, chemical, pharmaceutical, metallurgical, business methods, computer systems, medical devices, speech recognition, and cryptography.

Nancy is Board Certified in Intellectual Property Law by The Florida Bar Board of Legal Specialization and Education and has been an Adjunct Professor at the University of Miami School of Law since 2000.

Prior to joining Carlton Fields, Nancy was an associate with Hunton & Williams, LLP. She received her J.D., summa cum laude, from the University of Miami School of Law in 1998 and her B.Ch.E., highest honors, in Chemical Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology in 1980. Nancy is registered to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.



Flint

**Kenneth Thompson, Jr.** joined the Atlanta office as of counsel in the Firm's Business Litigation & Trade Regulation Practice Group. Ken focuses his practice on tort and products liability litigation; intellectual property litigation with an emphasis on franchising and distribution disputes; and complex litigation. He has defended clients in wrongful death and personal injury lawsuits, including medical device and pharmaceutical litigation.



Thompson

Ken also has litigated trademark, trade

dress and related infringement claims and has represented national franchisors in disputes in state and federal courts. He also handles complex commercial matters in federal and state courts throughout the country.

Ken received his J.D., cum laude, from Howard University and his B.A., magna cum laude, from Florida A&M University.



Catoe

**Lauren Catoe** joined the Tampa office as an associate in the Real Estate & Finance Practice Group. Lauren received her J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law in 2007 and her B.S., with honors, in Business Administration and Finance from the University of Florida in 2004.

**L. Monty Garside**, joined the Atlanta office as an associate in the Firm's Business Litigation & Trade Regulation Practice Group. Monty focuses his practice in the areas of commercial litigation and entertainment law. His litigation experience includes products liability, eminent domain (condemnation), dispossession actions, and general contract disputes. In the area of entertainment law, Monty has drafted and negotiated management agreements,



Garside

Attorney profiles continued on page 12

## NEW MINORITY AND FEMALE ATTORNEYS CONTINUED

personal performance agreements, and recording contracts.

Monty received his J.D. from Duke University School of Law in 2002, where he served as Co-Chair of the Moot Court Board and was also a member of the National Moot Court Team. He received his B.S., summa cum laude, from Florida A&M University in 1999, where he was a Thurgood Marshall Scholar.

### **Sharaine Sibblies**

joined the Miami office as an associate in the Corporate, Securities & Tax Practice Group.

Sharaine received her J.D. from the University of Miami School of Law in 2007 and her B.A. from the University of Miami in 2004.



Sibblies

**Jo Claire Spear** joined the St. Petersburg office as an associate in the Real Estate & Finance Practice Group. Prior to joining Carlton Fields, Jo practiced with Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson as a real estate associate from 1990 to 1997 and was the Assistant Vice President/Real Estate Banking, Marketing Officer, North Florida Region for Florida National Bank f/k/a Royal Trust Bank from 1980 to 1987.

## CARLTON FIELDS FEATURED IN MINORITY CORPORATE COUNSEL ASSOCIATION'S *DIVERSITY & THE BAR*

Carlton Fields is pleased to announce that four of the Firm's shareholders are featured in the Attorneys of Color section of *Diversity & the Bar* magazine. The attorneys featured include Miami attorneys **Alina Alonso**, **Carlos Mas**, and **Dennis Olle**, as well as Orlando attorney **Ken Uncapher**.

*Diversity & the Bar* is the flagship magazine of the Minority Corporate Counsel Association (MCCA). The publication advocates the advancement of talented diverse attorneys in the nation's law firms and corporate legal departments. The Carlton Fields attorneys are highlighted in the March-April 2008 issue of the magazine. For more information about this organization or the publication, please visit <http://www.mcca.com/>.

Alina practices in the Firm's Appellate Practice & Trial Support Practice Group. She handles all aspects of appellate litigation in state and federal court, including brief writing and oral argument. She also provides litigation support, including drafting and arguing case dispositive motions, pre-trial motions, and post-trial motions.

Dennis is the Firm's Practice Group Leader for the Corporate, Securities & Tax Practice Group. He has an exten-

sive securities practice, including public and private offerings, corporate disclosure, and mergers and acquisitions. In addition, he also represents clients in capital raising and all types of general corporate matters.

Carlos practices in the Firm's Corporate, Securities & Tax Practice Group. He has represented various clients in connection with general corporate and transactional matters including contract negotiation and preparation, corporate governance and employee relations, creation of partnerships, limited liability companies and corporations, mergers and acquisitions, and debt and equity financings.

Ken has more than 20 years of legal experience, which has given him an opportunity to serve a variety of business clients in meeting their business and personal needs. He has a multifaceted practice in the areas of corporate and business law, real estate, and probate. He helps clients steer around obstacles in order to accomplish the desired result, whether that is financing a transaction, buying or selling a business, acquiring and developing real estate, or probating an estate to clear the way for the disposition of assets.

For more information on the **Carlton Fields Diversity Newsletter**, *Mosaic*, please contact: **Kenya J. Reddy**, at 813.229.4331 or by email at [kreddy@carltonfields.com](mailto:kreddy@carltonfields.com)

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The material contained in this newsletter is general and summary in nature, and consists of highlights and information pertinent to clientele of Carlton Fields. It is not intended to be specific legal advice on any matters discussed. If you have questions regarding the content of this newsletter, please contact your attorney at Carlton Fields. The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisements. Before you decide, ask us to send you free, written information about our qualifications and experience.