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Alumni@Dentons

December 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

02

Highlight: Golden Spike

03

Recent events

04

Q&A: Andrea Kimball

05

Recent Laterals

05

Legal Tech

06

Dentons Delivers

07

Diversity and Inclusion

07

Kudos

We are pleased to share with our extended Dentons US family this issue of Alumni@Dentons.

Drop us a line at alumni@dentons.com and let us know what you liked about this edition and if you have other ideas. Also, keep us posted on what you have been up to and we will be happy to share it in our next issue.

Highlight

Project Golden Spike

A new US model to connect talent to opportunity, coast to coast

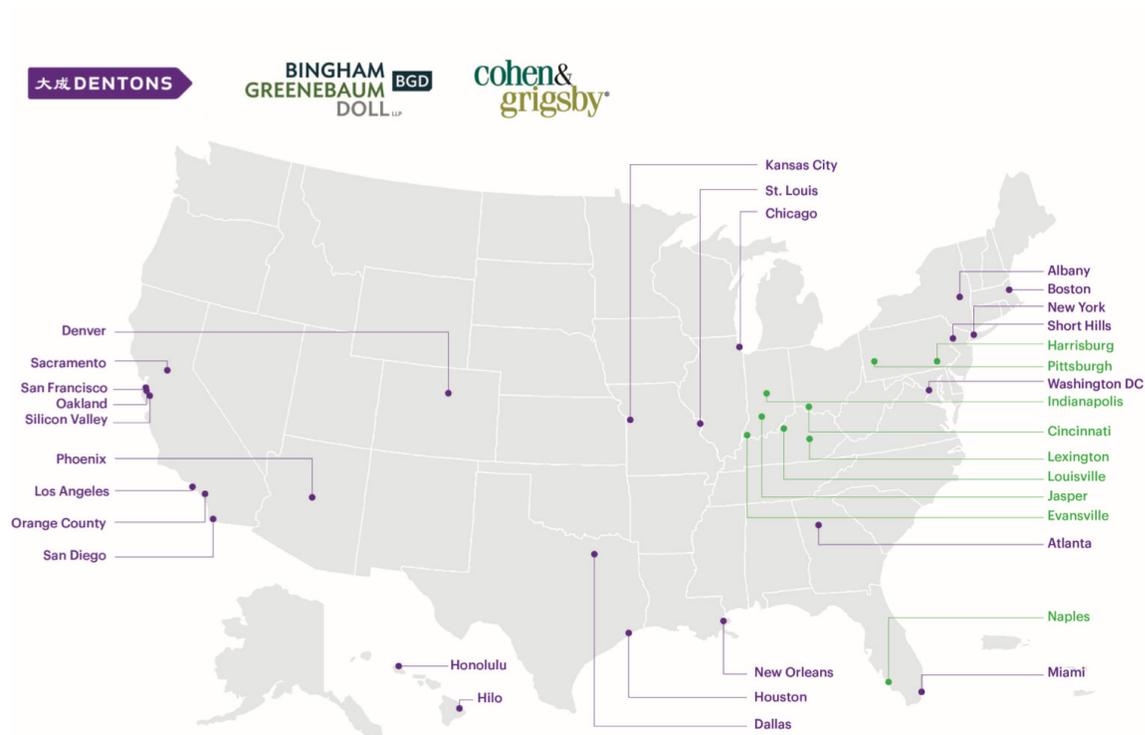
In the first step toward creating the first truly national US law firm, Dentons US, Bingham Greenebaum Doll and Cohen & Grigsby have agreed to combine. As the first combination under our new Golden Spike model, we are on our way toward building a new national law firm capable of serving clients from coast to coast as well as around the world. The combined firm will have 33 US offices at launch, in nine of the 10 largest markets and 14 of the top 20. The “Golden Spike” model is in honor of the celebratory railroad spike that completed the first transcontinental railroad in the US.

The national partnership in the United States was designed to meet our clients’ need for a sufficiently scaled law firm to support the myriad specialties they demand, and their desire to reduce the overall number of firms they use. The partnership of the lawyers in the combined member firms enables our lawyers to leverage each other’s practice strengths and resources, while retaining their defining characteristics and ability to provide in-and-of-the-community insights.

Bingham Greenebaum Doll has helped clients close deals, manage risks and open doors to new opportunities for more than 100 years. Its more than 175 lawyers provide transactional, litigation, estate planning, tax, employee benefits and economic development advice to clients across a variety of industries and business sectors from their offices in Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio.

Cohen & Grigsby, a leading provider of business-critical legal services, comprises more than 140 lawyers in offices in Pittsburgh and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and Naples, Florida. The firm’s lawyers have developed core and specialty areas to meet client demands in business services, commercial and complex litigation, workforce solutions and private wealth management.

We look forward to welcoming Bingham Greenebaum Doll and Cohen & Grigsby to our team.



Recent Events



Kansas City office 25th anniversary

Colleagues, alums, clients, prominent executives and other local leaders gathered to celebrate our Kansas City office's 25th anniversary in October. The evening was a testament to the Kansas City team's outstanding accomplishments over the past quarter century, helping Dentons to expand our global presence while remaining deeply rooted in the local KC community.



Three of the trailblazers who were there from the beginning in 1994—partner **Mark Johnson**, senior counsel **Jerry Wolf** and partner **Curtis Woods**—are still cornerstones of the office today. Along with Mark, Jerry and Curtis, our Kansas City team includes many colleagues with more than 20 years of service to the Firm and our clients: partner **Mitchell Albert**, partner **Kathy Babich**, litigation docket specialist **Mary Darby**, partner **Bruce Davison**, legal secretary **Victoria Garden**, partner **Matt Garms**, billing coordinator **Carolyn Gilmore**, partner **Michelle Stark Kaufman**, legal secretary **Concetta LaCapra**, legal secretary **Brenda Lovell-Dye**, partner **Brian McGinley**, legal secretary **Erin Miller**, partner **Marty Moderson**, legal secretary **Carla Norwood**, partner **Steve Rist**, partner **Margo Soule** and office administrator **Barbara Threlkeld**.

Children's Law Center Event

On November 20, Dentons partnered with DC's Children's Law Center (CLC), a longtime pro bono client, for a reception and presentation highlighting CLC's invaluable work to address child sex trafficking. Dentons partner, CLC relationship partner and board of directors member, Claire Maddox joined CLC policy director Sharra Greer, supervising attorney Naiké Savain and director of social work Kim Daulton for a panel discussion and Q&A exploring CLC's

legal and advocacy work in this area. The organization has led efforts at the municipal level to protect children and to provide services to youth who have been trafficked. This is in addition to helping more than 5,000 children and families, including many of the city's poorest, tackle seemingly insurmountable problems each year.

“Dentons and Children's Law Center share a strategic, outcomes-driven approach and we are so grateful that Dentons brings this expertise to making DC a safer and healthier place for children.”

– Children's Law Center Executive Director, Judith Sandalow

Quick Overview of Children's Law Center:

- Children's Law Center is the largest civil legal services organization in DC
- Advocates so every child in DC can grow up with a loving family, good health and a quality education
- Impacts the lives of 1 in 9 children in DC's poorest neighborhoods
- Works with some of DC's most vulnerable and at-risk children

Dentons has partnered with CLC on strategies to help the organization expand its reach. A few successes include helping CLC:

- pass the grandparent subsidy law, a first in the nation law that helps to reduce the number of children in foster care by providing financial support to low-income grandparents
- form one of the first medical-legal partnerships in the country
- advance their innovative partnership with Children's National and the DC Department of Health through which they are sharing data to map instances of uncontrolled asthma in children caused by poor housing conditions so that DC's leaders can respond block by block rather than apartment by apartment, including additional training in laws, policies and best practices around spotting and remediating health-harming housing conditions

Q&A

Dentons alum Andrea Kimball VP and General Counsel, Sporting Kansas City



Tell us about your time at Dentons.

I joined Dentons legacy firm Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal in mid-2010 (shortly before its merger with Denton Wilde Sapte in late September of that year), and I left the Firm for my dream job—in-house counsel for a pro sports team—in 2016. My six years at Dentons came at a time of great growth for the Firm. I had moved my family and practice from San Diego to Kansas City, MO, and I appreciated that Dentons afforded me the flexibility of referring clients to colleagues all over the globe, while still maintaining a local and US national litigation practice. I always felt that my partners—whether they were in the UK or Shanghai—treated my clients like their own.

My first experience appearing in a state court in rural Missouri was quite a change of pace from California, where most of my work was in federal district courts. Since leaving Dentons I have continued to work with the Firm on real estate, web privacy, pro bono and other matters. No matter where geographically I have needed assistance, or in what practice area, Dentons has always exceeded my expectations.

Were there any major milestones in your career while with the Firm?

I started my legal career in 1998, as an associate and later, partner, at the San Diego firm of Luce Forward Hamilton & Scripps. I thought I would spend my entire career there when a desire to be closer to family prompted me to move cross-country to join Sonnenschein. The highlight of my time at Dentons was in 2015, when Dentons' combination with McKenna Long & Aldridge, which had merged with Luce Forward in 2012, reunited me with those same amazing San Diego lawyers who taught me how to practice law. Needless to say, the next partner retreat was very special for me.

My best memories at Dentons were the poolside cocktail hours at the retreats, hosted by the Dentons LGBTQ lawyers. I also enjoyed the collegiality in the Kansas City office and the fact that some of the best lawyers in the country are there—a city that is greatly underestimated. I also enjoyed bringing to Dentons' Kansas City office the Luce Forward-San Diego office tradition of epic April Fools' Day pranks. I am not sure the Kansas City folks would feel the same affection for those pranks.

What advice would you give your 25-year-old self?

I would tell myself to never give up on your dream job. Some lawyers get into sports law in the beginning of their career and work their way up. I chose a different path and that worked for me. Following a clerkship in San Diego I joined a large firm, focusing on civil and IP litigation. Then, in my 19th year of practice I had the opportunity to join Sporting Kansas City, a two-time MLS championship men's soccer team. But it was while working at Luce and Dentons that I developed the skill set I needed for the position of vice president and general counsel. I garnered experience in IP, licensing, contract review and dispute resolution, insurance, and employment litigation—all subject areas I now deal with on a daily basis as general counsel.

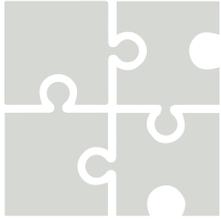
And looking forward? Where do you see yourself in ten years?

I look forward to helping Sporting Kansas City win more MLS and US Open Cups. As the team lawyer, I get to see my legal work translate into the overall team efforts. I work with young soccer stars to bring them to KC to create "homegrown" players in our Youth Academy. I provide legal and HR support to our coaches, front office and players, assist with player contracts and immigration/green cards, and manage the risks at our four properties. In addition, we are one of very few sports teams with our own stadium concessions and off-site catering, and that business line keeps me very busy. Kansas City is also in the running to host some games for the 2026 United World Cup. I hope that in seven years I will be watching the US compete for a World Cup here in Kansas City.

What do you do during your downtime?

Not surprisingly I spend a lot of time watching sports. My two kids play multiple sports and, of course, I watch a lot of MLS soccer. I also love to hike, fish and be outdoors. Living in the Midwest, in a rural area and commuting into the city, allows me to spend a lot of time outdoors.

Recent Laterals



Our Corporate practice welcomed counsel **Derek Swanson** and **Perry Smith** to our Atlanta office and counsel **Milena Georgieva** to our Silicon Valley office.

Capital Markets partner **Wendell Faria** joined our Washington, DC office.

Our Venture Tech group welcomed partner **Sean Grygiel** and counsel **Rob Condon** and **Adrian Stewart** to our Meatpacking office.

Commercial Litigation counsel **Justin Sarno** and Real Estate counsel **Richard Garvan** joined our Los Angeles office.

Our Intellectual Property and Technology group welcomed counsel **Ben Wigger** to our Silicon Valley office.

Legal Tech Paladin

Earlier this year Dentons became the first law firm to adopt Paladin, a cutting-edge pro bono tool that easily connects our lawyers to pro bono opportunities. As part of the partnership with Paladin, Dentons helped develop a version of the product, originally created for in-house counsel, to match the needs of a law firm. Our efforts have helped other law firms become comfortable with adopting the tool for their pro bono programs.

Since January, Dentons has rolled out the Paladin tool in nine US offices and has empowered our lawyers to contribute more effectively than ever. By identifying a greater variety of pro bono opportunities, receiving curated suggestions that match specific interests, and maintaining a real-time record

of pro bono impact, the Firm has a greater opportunity to provide meaningful, fulfilling experiences for lawyers and powerful results for people and communities in need.

The multi-phase rollout will continue in 2020 and soon bring Paladin to all US colleagues. Pro Bono partner **Ben Weinberg** and Nextlaw head of product **Maya Markovich** are leading this innovative and impactful initiative, which has already proven to bolster our pro bono capabilities.



Paladin

Dentons Delivers

Colleagues across the US have come together to further the Dentons commitment to making a positive social impact in the communities where we live and work through the Dentons Delivers program. As we head into a season of giving back, read the stories below for just a few of the many ways we have been making a difference in our communities.

Volunteers out of the New York office painted Stars of Hope® to send to El Paso elementary school students in the wake of the city's tragic mass shooting.

The Denver office continues their outstanding support of the [Denver Rescue Mission](#) by preparing and serving meals to those experiencing homelessness.

Colleagues out of the New York, New Jersey and Meatpacking offices prepared students for the 2019 school year by collecting and donating essential school supplies.

The women of our New York Capital Markets team supported our women's network, [WomenLEAD](#), by sponsoring a Career Day for the clients of [Bottomless Closet](#).

More than 30 Chicago colleagues hit the track for Race Judicata in support of [Chicago Volunteer Legal Services](#).

Atlanta colleagues continue their more than a year-long commitment to beautify the [Atlanta Beltline](#).

The Kansas City office volunteered with [Habitat for Humanity](#) to build home frameworks for those in need.

Colleagues in the Honolulu office volunteered at the 38th Annual Honolulu Century Ride, which raises money to support the [Hawai'i Bicycling League](#), an organization that encourages people to ride bicycles for better health, recreation, and transportation.

“It is a privilege to work with a team that places such a high importance on having a positive impact on their local communities”

– Mike McNamara, Dentons US CEO



Diversity and Inclusion

Big Inclusion Project

Dentons' first Big Inclusion Project was a tremendous success, with 22 global teams creating insightful project proposals aimed at advancing inclusion in our Firm and producing videos to share their ideas. The 77 US colleagues who took part comprised one-third of the total participation, and countless more viewed and voted on the project proposals.

Videos for the Big Inclusion Project were viewed more than 15,000 times since being posted in November, showing that inclusion is a core Dentons value and reflecting the high priority we give to advancing our inclusion goals.

Congratulations to our US colleague, Washington, DC partner **Lori Mihalich-Levin** and global team (Carolyn Burns, Bonnie Calnan, Louise Crawford, Roland Gray, Piotr Maciejka, David McGrory) whose project that focused on promoting flexibility across the Firm garnered the strongest response and support of the global board. Their plan, and others, will be advanced to further our commitment to building inclusion at Dentons.

Kudos!

TrustLaw, the Thomson Reuters Foundation's global pro bono legal program, named Dentons the 2019 **International Law Firm of the Year**. This is a highly prestigious recognition in the global pro bono community, one that recognizes the depth and breadth of our pro bono service to individuals in need, nonprofits, social enterprises and many others. This award comes after Dentons contributed over 98,000 pro bono hours across our global network in 2018.

Chicago Real Estate partner **Jana Cohen Barbe** earned Lifetime Achievement honors at the 2019 Women, Influence & Power in Law Awards (formerly known as the National Women in Law Awards), given by Corporate Counsel and InsideCounsel. Jana will also become the chair of the Board of Advisors of Catalyst in January.

Washington, DC, Public Policy partner **Bill McCollum** received the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award from Marquis Who's Who.

Hispanic Heritage Celebration

To commemorate Hispanic Heritage Month, our Latino Professional Network (LPN) and Diversity and Inclusion Committee organized a screening of the documentary *A Class Apart*, preceded by a chat with Sindy Marisol Benavides, CEO of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). Sindy spoke with the co-chairs of our LPN Washington, DC, senior advisor **Gilberto Ocañas** and partner **Kristen Rodriguez**, about the subject of the film, the 1954 case of *Hernandez v. Texas*, which found Mexican Americans defeating Jim Crow-style discrimination in the US Supreme Court. This was a crucial though sometimes overlooked milestone in our nation's civil rights history, and a case still powerfully relevant today.

Real Estate partner **Julia Taylor** was recognized by the *Kansas City Business Journal* as a 2019 NextGen Leader, an annual list that honors 25 emerging leaders in Kansas City.

Hotels and Leisure partner **Meghan Cocci** was named Hospitality MVP by *Law360* for 2019.

