The Feerick Center for Social Justice and the Stein Center for Law and Ethics present

Women’s Leadership Institute

January 25, 2019 | 9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. | Skadden Conference Center

Cosponsored by

Akin Gump Straus Hauer & Feld LLP Latham & Watkins LLP

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Fordham University The School of Law
Founded by recent alumni Hopi Costello Rupin ’16 and Molly Ryan ’15, this interactive Institute aims to empower and equip participants to succeed in presentation, communication, stress management, and more.

PROGRAM

8:30 a.m.
Check-in, coffee, and light breakfast

9 a.m.
Welcome
Matthew Diller, Dean and Paul Fuller Professor of Law, Fordham University School of Law

9:15 a.m.
Building Resilience and Stress/Burnout Prevention
Paula Davis-Laack, Founder and CEO of the Stress & Resilience Institute, a training and consulting firm that partners with law firms and other organizations to identify and address burnout and increase the well-being and stress resilience of their workers. Paula’s experience with burnout is what prompted her to leave her own law practice and study the effects of burnout and stress, and she talks about what that experience was like, and how resilience tools have helped her cope since. Participants will leave with a clear understanding of what causes burnout, its warning signs, the link between burnout, and increased rates of errors, the burnout formula, and concrete steps lawyers and law students can take to address the issue.

10:30 a.m.
Break

10:45 a.m.
Small group breakout session

11:30 a.m.
Award presentation
Maria L. Marcus, Joseph M. McLaughlin Professor of Law, Emerita

12 p.m.
Lunch

12:30 p.m.
Keynote address
Kim Koopersmith ’84, Chairperson, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

1:45 p.m.
Break

2:00 p.m.
Cultivating Leadership Presence: Projecting Credibility and Confidence
Brenne Grossman, Principal Trainer, SpeechSkills. Whether meeting one-on-one with clients, interacting with colleagues, or delivering a formal presentation, appearing credible and confident significantly raises one’s effectiveness. This seminar examines the power of the “sub-textual” conversation — body language, vocal patterns, and mannerisms that can raise or lower one’s status in the workplace. Participants will learn to cultivate personal presence, recognize/prevent the “tells” of nervousness and intimidation, strike a balance between authority and approachability, demonstrate composure under pressure, and avoid unintentional behaviors that may lower one’s credibility.

3:15 p.m.
Break

3:30 p.m.
Panel discussion
Panelists will discuss the importance of building robust professional networks, making strategic decisions that will advance one’s career, recognizing and managing the impact of gender dynamics on one’s networks, making strategic decisions that will advance one’s career, maintaining work-life balance, and considering issues unique to female attorneys of color.

Panelists
Helene R. Banks ’88 Partner, Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP
Christa D’Alimonte General Counsel, Viacom
Jiyeon Lee-Lim Partner, Latham & Watkins LLP
Aviva O. Will ’95 Senior Managing Director, Burford Capital

Discussion moderated by Khadijah Sharif-Drnkard ’97, Senior Vice President, Business and Legal Affairs, Viacom Media Networks

4:45 p.m.
Closing remarks and fireside chat
The Honorable Judge Claire Chadirjian Cecchi ’89, U.S. District Judge, District of New Jersey
Discussion moderated by Brittany Dryer ’16, Associate, Latham & Watkins LLP.

Cocktail reception to follow

CLE CREDIT

Continuing legal education credits have been approved in accordance with the requirements of the New York State CLE Board for a maximum of 1.5 transitional and non-transitional professional practice credits.

CLE course materials available at: law.fordham.edu/clematerials

GUEST WI-FI ACCESS

1. Go to Settings>Wi-Fi and select Connect-Fordham-WiFi.

2. Open your web browser and navigate to a frequently refreshed URL, such as CNN.com. You will automatically be directed to the Fordham network welcome page. Select Join as a Guest. (Note: For Apple iOS devices, use only the Safari browser for this process.)

3. Agree to the acceptable use policy. You will be directed to a new website. Click Join Now.

4. Follow the prompts to complete the process, which includes downloading/installing a small configuration file that allows you to connect to our public Wi-Fi network. You may need to enter the password for the device/computer to complete the process.

5. You’ll receive a message confirming that you’ve joined the network. Click Done.

Guest Wi-Fi is available throughout Fordham University’s Lincoln Center campus. While guest access does not expire, on subsequent use with your device/computer, you may be prompted to agree to the acceptable use policy.

For more detailed, device- or computer-specific instructions, visit www.fordham.edu/wireless, pick up a more detailed instruction sheet at the information desk, or call the Fordham Law Helpdesk at 212-636-6786.
Helene was the first female partner elected in Cahill’s corporate practice group. She is the Chair of the Firm’s Women’s Initiatives Committee and mentors many of the female corporate associates of the firm. Helene serves on the boards of the New York Women’s Foundation and the Baruch College Fund. She served on the development committee of the YMCA of New York City and the Grants Advisory Committee of the New York Women’s Foundation. She also served on the Board of Trustees of the Tadal Youth Theater for six years and was the Board Chair at the Brooklyn Heights Montessori School for five years, and is a Trustee Emeritus. She received her JD from Fordham University School of Law.

Honorable Judge Claire Chadrijan Cecchi
U.S. District Judge, District of New Jersey

Claire C. Cecchi serves as a United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey in Newark, New Jersey. She joined the Court as a United States Magistrate Judge in 2006, a position she held until her appointment in 2011. She has a substantial caseload of civil and criminal matters and is a designated judge in the patent pilot program, handling numerous high-profile patent cases. She is also actively managing a sizable multi-district litigation involving personal-injury claims arising from the use of proton-pump inhibitors.

Judge Cecchi is from Whitestone, Queens, New York and graduated from The Bronx High School of Science in 1982. She received her Bachelor’s Degree cum laude in 1986 from Barnard College, Columbia University, where she studied political science and history. She received her Juris Doctor in 1989 from Fordham University School of Law, where she was a recipient of the Gulbenkian Merit Scholarship.

Following her graduation from law school, Judge Cecchi served as an Assistant Corporation Counsel in the Office of the Corporation Counsel, City of New York. Thereafter, she was an Associate at Robinson, St. John & Wayne from 1992 to 1996 and its successor firm, Robinson, Lapidus & Livelli in 1996. Subsequently, at the firm of Carpenter, Bennett & Morrissey she was an Associate from 1997 to 2001 and a Partner from 2001 to 2004.

The firm later merged and became known as McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvany & Carpenter, where she was also a Partner. She specialized in complex litigation in federal and state courts of New Jersey and other jurisdictions.

The New Jersey Law Journal named Judge Cecchi one of New Jersey’s “40 Under 40” in 2002. Among her other honors, she received the Fordham Law Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2016. She is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, a Member of the Historical Society of the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, and a Master of the William J. Brennan, Jr./Arthur T. Vanderbilt American Inn of Court. Judge Cecchi is actively involved in community outreach. She is a frequent speaker at continuing legal education programs, and was previously the director and moderator of the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey Summer Intern/Law Clerk Education Program.

Her efforts to interest younger people in the law include hosting the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey Take Your Child to Work Day, and sponsoring an annual mock trial for Essex Fells School sixth-graders.

Christa D'Alimonte
General Counsel
Viacom

Christa A. D’Alimonte is Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary, overseeing Viacom’s global legal functions, as well as the company’s Human Resources organization and its Security, Facilities, and Real Estate teams.

D’Alimonte joined Viacom as Senior Vice President, Deputy General Counsel and Assistant Secretary in 2012 from Shearman & Sterling LLP, where she was Deputy Practice Group Leader of the Firm’s Global Mergers & Acquisitions group. In her practice at Shearman & Sterling, D’Alimonte represented a broad range of domestic and multinational clients – including Viacom - public and private mergers, acquisitions and dispositions, as well as corporate governance matters. D’Alimonte joined Shearman & Sterling in 1993, and became a partner in January 2001.

D’Alimonte graduated from Georgetown University Law Center, where she was the Editor-in-Chief of the American Criminal Law Review, and received her A.B. in Politics and a Certificate of Proficiency in Latin American Studies from Princeton University. She has been recognized as a leading lawyer by Chambers USA and Legal 500 and as a “Top Female Dealmaker” by Law360. D’Alimonte is a member of the board of directors of Asphalt Green, a nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting individuals of all ages and backgrounds achieve health through a lifetime of sports and fitness, a past member of the Princeton University Politics Department Advisory Council and a past participant in the Partnership for New York City’s David Rockefeller Fellows Program.

Paula Davis-Laack
Founder and CEO
Stress & Resilience Institute

Paula Davis-Laack, JD, MAPP, is a former practicing lawyer, speaker, consultant, media contributor, and a stress and resilience expert who has designed and taught resilience workshops to thousands of professionals around the world.

Paula left her law practice after seven years and earned a master’s degree in applied positive psychology from the University of Pennsylvania. As part of her post-graduate training, Paula was selected to be part of the University of Pennsylvania faculty teaching and training resilience skills to soldiers as part of the Army’s Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness program. The Penn team trained resilience skills to more than 30,000 soldiers and their family members.

Her articles on stress, burnout prevention, resilience, and thriving at work are prominently featured on her blogs in The Huffington Post, Forbes, Fast Company and Psychology Today. She is the author of several e-books, with her latest called From Army Strong to Lawyer Strong®: What the Legal Profession Can Learn from The Army’s Experience Cultivating a Culture of Resilience.

She is a contributing author to several books, including, Character Strengths Matter: How to Live a Full Life (2015), a chapter about resilience in The Best Lawyer You Can Be (2018), and a chapter about her burnout prevention and resilience work with the Medical College of Wisconsin in the forthcoming Appreciative and Relationship Practices in Healthcare.

Her expertise has been featured in and on O, The Oprah Magazine, Redbook, Men’s Health, Time.com, Today.com, The Steve Harvey TV show, Huffington Post Live, and a variety of media outlets. She has also been featured in and on the Lawyerist, Law360.com, various ABA webinars and publications, and the Women’s Law Journal. Paula was recently named a Trusted Advisor to the Professional Development Consortium.

She is the Founder and CEO of the Stress & Resilience Institute, a training and consulting firm that partners with law firms and organizations to help them develop high-performing professionals, leaders, and teams using the science of resilience and well-being (www.pauladavislaack.com). You can reach Paula at paula@pauladavislaack.com.

Brittany Dryer
Associate
Latham & Watkins LLP

Brittany K. Dryer is an associate in the New York office of Latham & Watkins and a member of the firm’s Litigation & Trial Department. Ms. Dryer previously clerked for Judge Claire C. Cecchi of the US District Court for the District of New Jersey. She received her JD from Fordham University School of Law, where she graduated magna cum laude and was the executive digital editor for the Fordham Law Review and an associate editor for the Moot Court Board. Ms. Dryer received her bachelor’s degree in political science from Emory University.
Brenne Grossman
Principal Trainer
SpeechSkills
Based in New York, Brenne delivers the firm’s signature workshops to some of the East Coast’s most innovative companies. As a Principal Trainer for SpeechSkills, Brenne has provided training to companies and non-profits across the U.S., including: CT Consulting, Indeed, Palantir, Pfizer, PopSugar and LWV (Leading Women in Technology).

A graduate of the NYU Tisch School of the Arts with a BFA in Drama, Brenne has significant experience as a professional actor, including a recent year-long Broadway National Tour. Brenne has also worked in the world of casting, collaborating with creative teams to match unique voices and personalities with the needs of various productions. Through her roles both onstage and behind the scenes, Brenne has come to learn and appreciate the necessary skills for taming adrenaline and projecting confidence in high-stakes situations.

In addition to leading workshops, Brenne is a part of our development team, working alongside founder Cara Hale Alter to design new curriculum and cultivate new business opportunities.

Brenne’s other passions include food, travel, and kickboxing.

Kim Koopersmith
Chairperson
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
Kim Koopersmith, chairperson of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, guides the firm’s strategic direction, heads the firm’s management committee and ensures the firm’s continued commitment to client service, diversity, pro bono work and attorney excellence. She has played a key role in enhancing the firm’s overall performance, earning recognition for her innovative and transformational approach to law firm leadership. Prior to her role in management, Ms. Koopersmith was a partner in the firm’s litigation practice, handling complex commercial litigation and serving as relationship partner to several of the firm’s largest clients.

Throughout her career, Ms. Koopersmith pioneered many of Akin Gump’s efforts to enhance diversity and attract and retain the best talent, including driving the firm’s participation in scholarship and pipeline efforts. She is also an active participant in legal industry efforts to address diversity and attract and retain the best talent, having led or co-led many of Akin Gump’s efforts to enhance diversity and attract and retain the best talent.

Ms. Koopersmith is involved in numerous community activities, including serving on the board of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, co-chairing the Pro Bono Institute Law Firm Committee and sitting on the board of Her Justice. She has also chaired the board of Equal Justice Works.

Jiyeon Lee-Lim
Partner
Latham & Watkins LLP
Jiyeon Lee-Lim is a partner in the New York office of Latham & Watkins and is a Global Department Chair of the firm’s Tax Department. Her major practice area includes international and corporate tax, with a particular emphasis on financial products, capital markets transactions, securitization transactions and cross-border tax planning. Ms. Lee-Lim has previously served as the head of the firm’s International Tax Group, and is ranked by Chambers Global as a notable practitioner. She was recently named as a Notable Woman in Law by Crain’s New York Business.

Ms. Lee-Lim has been on the Executive Committee of Tax Section of the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA) and previously served as a co-chair of the Committee on Securitizations and Structured Finance. She is also a member of Tax Forum. Ms. Lee-Lim is a frequent speaker at a number of conferences.


Maria L. Marcus
Joseph M. McLaughlin Professor of Law, Emerita
Maria L. Marcus is the Joseph M. McLaughlin Professor of Law Emerita and the Fordham Law School Moor Court Board Moderator. She received her B.A. from Oberlin College and her J.D. from Yale Law School. She was Associate Counsel for the NAACP from 1961 to 1967, Assistant Attorney General of New York State from 1967 to 1978, Chief of the Litigation Bureau for the Attorney General of New York State from 1976 to 1978, and Vice President of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York from 1995 to 1996. Her achievements of note include the Dean’s Medal of Recognition from Fordham Law School in 2011, Teacher of the Year from Fordham Law Students in 2001, the New York Women’s Bar Association President’s Special Award in 1999, and the Fordham Urban Law Journal’s Lefkowitz Award in 2016.

Khadijah Sharif-Drinkard
Senior Vice President, Business and Legal Affairs
Viacom Media Networks
Khadijah Sharif-Drinkard serves as Senior Vice President, Business and Legal Affairs, Viacom Media Networks, where she oversees unscripted programming, music programming, tent poles, specials and news across BET Networks. She is a strong business partner with broad expertise and over 20 years of practicing law in the media and entertainment field. Khadijah structures and negotiates a wide variety of transactions in connection with the development, production, acquisition and distribution of content across platforms. Her experience as a skilled business executive and deal maker was paramount in her closing deals for a number of high profile projects, including, the Bobby Brown Story; the New Edition mini-series (the highest rated show ever on BET), and in bringing the Black Girls Rock! franchise to BET. Prior to working at BET Networks, Khadijah served as Vice President, Senior Counsel at Nickieleon where she helped to launch such hits as Dora the Explorer, Diego and The Backyardigans.

Khadijah serves as President of the Board of Directors for the Black Entertainment & Sports Lawyers Association (BESLA) and as Vice President of the Board for Columbia College Women (CCW). She received the Luminary Award for her business acumen and her commitment to diversity and inclusion from the National Association of Multi-Ethnicity in Communications (NAMIC) and the inaugural Corporate Counsel of the Year Award from the Muslim Bar Association of New York (MuBANY) in 2018. Khadijah earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Columbia University and her Juris Doctor from Fordham University School of Law. She lives in New Jersey with her husband and two daughters.

Aviva O. Will
Senior Managing Director
Burford Capital
In her role at Burford, Ms. Will has overseen the continuing innovation of its offerings to law firms and corporations, and has built the industry’s most respected litigation finance team and process. She has managed a broad range of litigation matters valued in the billions of dollars during her career, with a particular specialty in antitrust and complex business litigation.

Prior to joining Burford in 2010, Ms. Will was a senior litigation manager and Assistant General Counsel at Time Warner Inc., where she managed a portfolio of significant antitrust, IP, and complex commercial litigation. She was also the company’s chief antitrust and regulatory counsel, advising senior management on antitrust risk and overseeing all government antitrust investigations and merger clearances worldwide; she served as the Assistant Secretary for the company, managing corporate compliance and governance for the company and Board. Prior to joining Time Warner, Ms. Will was a senior litigator at Cravath, Swaine & Moore.

Ms. Will graduated from Columbia College with a degree in economics and philosophy, and cum laude from Fordham University School of Law, where she was the Writing & Research Editor of the Fordham Law Review and a member of the Order of the Coif. She was a law clerk to the Honorable Stewart G. Pollock on the New Jersey Supreme Court.