



Paulette Brown

Paulette Brown has held a number of positions throughout her career, including in-house counsel to several *Fortune* 500 companies and municipal court judge. For more than 20 years, she has focused her practice on labor and employment matters. She has successfully litigated a variety of employment matters, including class actions, sexual harassment, marital status, worker adjustment and retraining notification, race and age discrimination, and issues pertaining to the Family and Medical Leave Act. She is experienced in all aspects of workplace training and collective bargaining.

In addition to her law practice as a partner with Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge LLP, Ms. Brown serves as its first chief diversity officer. She is a past president of the Association of Black Women Lawyers of New Jersey and served on the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession, where she co-authored the nationally acclaimed study, *Visible Invisibility: Women of Color in Law Firms*. That project inspired her to form a group comprised of women of color associates in New Jersey to provide them with a safe environment to discuss issues affecting them in their firms.

Ms. Brown speaks and writes extensively on diversity issues and issues affecting women in the profession, not only inspiring those in power to provide opportunities to women lawyers, but also encouraging women lawyers to excel. She is actively involved in the Association of Law Firm Diversity Professionals, for which she was the opening keynote speaker and presented the program *Managing Diversity in the Economic Downturn* in November, 2008. Ms. Brown reaches and

encourages future members of the bar through extensive speaking engagements, including *Defining the Opt-Out Problem* for the conference entitled *Opt-out or Pushed Out, Are Women Choosing to Leave the Legal Profession?* at Yale Law School in March, 2009 and *The Changing Face of the Corporate Bar: Discrimination and Diversity in the Profession* at Stanford Law School in March, 2008. She contributes to the ABA Section of Litigation's *The Woman Advocate* newsletter, including a Summer, 2008 article titled *Issues and Solutions Affecting Women of Color in the Law*, and wrote the chapter *Staying in the Game* in the second edition of the book *The Woman Advocate*, released in April, 2010.

As a past president of the National Bar Association, Ms. Brown led a delegation to monitor the first free and democratic elections in South Africa. She has been recognized by the *National Law Journal* as one of the "50 Most Influential Minority Attorneys in the United States" and by *New Jersey Law Journal* as one of the prominent women and minority attorneys in the state of New Jersey. She has consistently been recognized as one of New Jersey's Super Lawyers and for the past four years as one of the top 50 women lawyers. Ms. Brown has been recognized by the American Bar Association with its prestigious Spirit of Excellence Award and by the Thurgood Marshall College Fund with its Award of Excellence. She also has been honored by the National Bar Association with its Equal Justice Award and its Gertrude Rush Award. Recently, Ms. Brown received the New Jersey Women Lawyers Association's Women's Initiative and Leaders in Law Platinum Award and the New Jersey State Bar Association's Excellence in Diversity Award. Ms. Brown received the Thurgood Marshall Award from the Garden State Bar Association and has been recognized by the New Jersey *Star Ledger* as New Jerseyan of the Year.

In addition to her accomplishments as a lawyer and judge, Ms. Brown is well known as an avid walker, an accomplished chef, a superb orator, and a dedicated mother, daughter, and sister. She has completed four three-day, 60-mile walks to raise money through the Susan Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

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