



The American Bar Association
 Section of Real Property, Trust and Estate Law
 Present a 90-Minute Teleconference and Live Audio Webcast



Diversity During the Downturn:

What Law Firms and Corporations Can Do Now To Achieve Greater Success

Thursday, August 27, 2009

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM Eastern | 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM Central | 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM Mountain | 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM Pacific

As the nation's economy went into upheaval, so too has the diversity landscape continued to suffer the aftershocks. It is a lot harder to argue for increased hiring of diverse lawyers when law firms are laying off hundreds of lawyers and some well-known firms have collapsed. It is much more difficult to urge corporations to diversify their outside counsel when some of those same corporations are teetering on the edge of bankruptcy and their very ability to remain in existence seems in doubt. How do you persuade bright, talented young people that ours is a profession they should pursue when so many young lawyers struggle to find employment that will allow them to pay their law school loans? Why should solo and small firm practitioners devote limited resources to internships, when now they can just as easily hire licensed lawyers to help them on a part-time basis? Is there any one of us – perhaps even we ourselves – who doesn't know other excellent lawyers who are out of work and not having much luck finding employment as a lawyer?

During this presentation we will discuss the future of diversity efforts within the legal community and diversity strategies in the brave new world such as:

- Increased research and data collection efforts
- Re-working (but not eliminating) mentoring & support programs
- Increased Social Networking
- Ways to support diversity in other manifestations.

Our Experts:

Donise E. Brown, *Starbucks Coffee Company*, Hollywood, FL

Sandra S. Yamate, *Former Director, ABA Commission on Racial & Ethnic Diversity in the Profession*, Chicago, IL

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