



Pittsburgh Golden Triangle

# Diverse Pittsburgh

*Focusing on the Legal Profession*

## Cathy Bissoon Installed as Federal Magistrate Judge August 1, 2008

**The Pittsburgh legal community in Western Pennsylvania congratulates Cathy Bissoon on this prestigious appointment.**

Throughout her career as an attorney, Cathy has demonstrated an unyielding commitment to the highest legal and ethical standards and a firm belief in the rule of law, principles that are crucial in the administration of justice.

As a federal judge, Bissoon wants to make sure that no matter who wins or loses in litigation, all parties who come before her feel as though they had been treated fairly and their issues fully vetted and resolved. Cathy says, “My hope is that, in the case of settlement, everybody can feel like they have been fairly treated. I just want people to get a sense that when they come to my court they are seeing justice being done.”

Cathy is the first woman of color appointed to the bench in the Western District of Pennsylvania. She states, “My appointment sends a message to my two children that they are not limited by who they are or what they look like. I think that being here is a signal to them that they certainly have every opportunity to make it.”

Cathy encourages students who are planning a career in law to do their due diligence to understand what that means and not expect a TV version of the law. She says, “For people who do this job, it takes a certain amount of stamina, a certain amount of ability to compromise, and a certain amount of strength to sometimes take unpopular positions.” Having grown up in New York, Cathy was attracted to Pittsburgh because she believes the city has a welcoming legal community and a good pace.

As an attorney, Cathy focused her practice on employment discrimination and harassment litigation and has first-chair jury trial experience along with extensive pre-trial litigation experience.



Cathy Bissoon

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### ***Education:***

- J. D. Harvard University
- B.A. (summa cum laude), Alfred University

### ***Cathy has been named:***

- One of the “Best Lawyers in America”
  - One of Pennsylvania’s “Super Lawyers”
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## Mission Statement

*Gene Harris, J.D.  
Diversity Coordinator –  
Allegheny County Bar Association*

**“Deciding on a particular profession or job can be a daunting task.”**



Many times individuals do not have a career plan in mind and, as a consequence, do not reach their career goal. Without a career plan, any road taken may impose or present frustrations, obstacles and setbacks that could have been avoided. Research shows that successful people have followed a well thought out career plan that evolved from three possible choices, decisive action and effective use of resources.

Successful individuals face obstacles in a realistic manner and attempt to reach their career goal utilizing the resources that are at their disposal.

Some of the most frequently used resources are human resources personnel, recruiters and college or university career services professionals who help professionals get hired in the chosen field. In the legal profession law firm administrators, legal recruiters and attorneys are vital resources. Practicing attorneys who have followed their career plan and are working in their chosen field can be a good source of inspiration and information.

In this issue, we have identified several successful diverse attorneys who have followed a specific career plan in an effort to reach their full potential. Career planning worked for them, we are confident it can also work for you.

**Diverse Pittsburgh**

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**Ana Maria Mieles**

## Ana Maria Mieles Specializes in Immigration

As an associate with Cohen & Grigsby, Ana Mieles concentrates her practice in the area of employment-based immigration, including temporary and permanent visas, family-based immigration and naturalization.

Ana's education includes a J.D. (cum laude, University of Pittsburgh Law Review, Phi Alpha Delta, International Law Society), University of Pittsburgh School of Law, 2002, an M.A., International Affairs (Alcoa Scholarship for Latin American Social and Public Policy) and the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, 2002, as well as a B.A., Economics and Political Science (magna cum laude), University of Pittsburgh College of Arts and Sciences, 1996.

- Pennsylvania Bar Association
- Allegheny County Bar (Hispanic Bar Committee)
- Regional VP for Hispanic National Bar Association, 2003-2004
- Board Member, The Hispanic Center

## Homer Walton Focuses on Employment and Labor Law and Directors and Officers Liability

Homer Walton, shareholder with Tucker Arensberg, concentrates his practice in the areas of employment and labor law and directors and officers liability. Homer provides defense of claims alleging sexual harassment, wrongful discharge, discrimination based on age, race, sex, religion, national origin, handicap and disability in violation of state and federal laws; i.e., Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended by the Civil Rights Act of 1991, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act. He also provides defense of unemployment and workers' compensation claims.

Homer is involved with proceedings before the National and Pennsylvania Labor Relations Boards, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission and the Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations. He has litigated cases in state and federal court.

His practical experience in a labor-intense environment, combined with his legal knowledge enables Homer to resolve employment disputes through legal analysis combined with creative ideas and techniques.




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### *Practice Areas:*

- Civil Litigation
- Labor and Employment
- Workers' Compensation

### *Education:*

- J. D. Duquesne University School of Law
  - B. A. University of Pittsburgh
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## K&L Gates' Lateral Conflicts Analyst Nicola Henry-Taylor

Nicola Henry-Taylor is an Attorney with experience serving as both an Assistant District Attorney and as a Firm Attorney. As an Assistant District Attorney for approximately six years, she was the sole individual responsible for managing the Allegheny County Mental Health Court. The Court generally serves individuals with mental illnesses who do not have serious criminal backgrounds or do not face serious criminal charges.

A graduate of Duquesne University Law School, Nicola currently serves as a staff attorney/Lateral Conflicts Analyst in the firm-wide Conflicts Department of the international law firm of K&L Gates, LLP. The Conflicts Department works in conjunction with K&L Gates' Office of General Counsel by supporting the General Counsel function of advising lawyers and personnel concerning ethical and professional standards and issues that might expose the firm or its potential liability. As a Lateral Conflicts Analyst, Nicola focuses her work on conducting conflicts clearance for lateral attorney and administrative hires.



**Nicola Henry-Taylor**

### *Professional Associations*

- ACBA
  - WLD Executive Council
  - Judiciary Committee
  - Diversity Collaborative
- Volunteer, Genesis of Pgh.
- CLAAAY - Mentor



## Brian Parker of McGuire Woods Co-Chairs the Life Science Industry Group and Defends Pharmaceutical Companies

Brian Parker co-chairs the Life Science Industry Group and defends innovative and generic pharmaceutical companies in safety and efficacy litigation. He has defended domestic and foreign pharmaceutical manufacturers in individual and multi-district litigation relating to single cell and biological compounds. He regularly advises pharmaceutical and medical device companies on compliance and regulatory issues.

Holding J.D. and B.A. degrees from Duquesne University, Brian has varied litigation experience handling matters for regional and national firm clients involving industrial equipment, commercial contract, environmental and intellectual property issues. He has a regional and growing national reputation in defending fortune 200 and 300 companies in high exposure litigation notwithstanding the jurisdiction. His varied litigation experience has allowed him to serve as national coordinating litigation counsel for multiple firm clients.

Professional Affiliations: Defense Research Institution, Homer S. Brown Law Association, Allegheny County Bar Association

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## Jun Yu Focuses On Corporate & Commercial Transactions

Jun H. Yu is a partner of Meyer, Unkovic & Scott LLP and a member of the Corporate & Business Law Group. He practices primarily in the areas of corporate and commercial transactions, with a focus on sales and acquisitions, securities regulations, capital formation, commercial law, financing, real estate and general business consulting.

Jun has represented various public and private companies in M&A deals and raised capital for new and mature businesses through structured offerings of securities. He has significant experience in representing private investment companies in acquiring target businesses on joint ventures, strategic alliances and separations. Yu has also negotiated and drafted commercial contracts, leases, licenses and other agreements.

Jun is a member of the American, Pennsylvania and Allegheny County Bar Associations. He is admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. He previously served on the Board of Directors of the Rosa Parks Scholarship Fund in Detroit and is a mentor for the Asian Law Student Association at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law.



### *Education*

- J.D., Wayne State University Law School
- M.A., University of Chicago
- B.A., Dickinson College