



Pittsburgh Golden Triangle

# Diverse Pittsburgh

*Focusing on the Legal Profession*

## Judge Alma S. de León “Latinos in the Federal Government: My Personal Experience”

Judge Alma S. de León, Hearing Office Chief Administrative Law Judge, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania gave a speech on “Latinos in the Federal Government: My Personal Experience” to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Pittsburgh District on October 7, 2008 as part of Hispanic Heritage Month. Judge de León shared her personal experiences. Before coming to America she was a General Jurisdiction Judge in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. She was appointed as an Administrative Law Judge for the Social Security Administration on August 22, 1994 to the Pittsburgh Hearing Office. She was the first Hispanic female judge in the Pittsburgh Office. Soon she wanted to explore other organizations where she could network and learn new things. Through the Hispanic Affairs Advisory Council she was able to convey the translation needs of the Hispanic claimants who do not speak English at the hearing level, stress the urgency to create bilingual positions in the hearing offices for the benefit of the Hispanic community, elevate the need to recruit bilingual judges and assign them to offices where there is a large Hispanic community.

Judge de León believes it is vital to join groups where we can make a difference and she is also concerned about presenting the Federal Government as an employer who welcomes qualified Hispanics. As she says “I have been blessed with this job opportunity and I want others to know about it.” On June 19, 2001 she was appointed Hearing Office Chief Administrative Law Judge of the Pittsburgh Hearing Office, the largest Hearing Office in the nation at that time. She held the position until December 2005. On November 3, 2008, she was selected for the second time to the same position and she is enjoying it along with the new challenges. “To be a Hispanic and a federal employee in greater Pittsburgh is something I am very proud of because I can show how far we can go and how much we can contribute given the opportunity.”



Judge Alma S. de León

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### Professional / Civic Activities

Chaired The Hispanic Affairs  
Advisory Council 2000 – 2003

Hispanic Employment Program  
Committee of the Federal  
Executive Board

Federal Hispanic Employee of  
the Year in 2000

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## Plans for a Sixth Summer Clerkship Program Underway

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

Plans for our Summer Clerkship Program in 2010 were approved in October. It is expected that there will be fewer slots available but nevertheless the program continues.

This represents a commitment by participating legal organizations and the local universities that the program has value, and is working to meet their needs.

In this issue we again feature successful women and minority attorneys who are making a difference in the Pittsburgh legal community. These attorneys have decided upon Pittsburgh as a place to live, grow their practice and be successful.

## Diverse Pittsburgh

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## Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney's Cindy Dunlap Hinkle Practices Litigation, Trade Secrets and Restrictive Covenants and Product Liability

A graduate of Temple University Beasley School of Law and the University of Pennsylvania, Cindy Dunlap Hinkle is a member of the Allegheny County Bar Association and the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association. She was admitted to the Pennsylvania and New Jersey; U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania; U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania; U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey; and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Ms. Dunlap Hinkle practices Litigation, Trade Secrets and Restrictive Covenants, and Product Liability. She has been counsel to an elder condominium association, a national surety company, a national auto insurance company, international bus manufacturing company, Internet marketing company in researching U.S. and European laws against sending unsolicited electronic email. She has also been counsel to a large hotel chain defending against lawsuits involving racial discrimination in employment and public accommodations.



**Cindy Dunlap Hinkle**

## Reed Smith's Intellectual Property Group's Richard Ting was a 2004 Summer Associate

Richard is an associate in the firm's Intellectual Property Group. His practice areas include patent litigation, patent prosecution, trademark prosecution, and intellectual property counseling and licensing. He has assisted in matters involving technology in such areas as life sciences, pharmaceuticals, energy, health care, medical devices, structural engineering, and robotics.

Richard is a graduate of Harvard Law School, a graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a recipient of M.I.T. Presidential Fellowship, and a graduate magna cum laude of Brown University.

Throughout the course of his practice, Richard regularly prepares discovery and summary judgment briefs, assists with claim construction, develops patent non-infringement and invalidity theories, analyzes patent damages theories, and assists with management of discovery. Richard also assesses patents and products in connection with due diligence matters, freedom-to-operate matters, and infringement and validity analyses. Additionally, his practice involves advising on pro bono matters.



Richard Ting

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### *Professional Admissions/Qualifications*

- Pennsylvania U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
  - Allegheny County Bar Association
  - Pittsburgh Intellectual Property Law Association
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## Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott's Arun Thomas Focuses on Civil Litigation

Arun J. Thomas is a Member with the firm's Litigation Division. He focuses his practice on General Civil Litigation, with particular emphasis in Products Liability and Mass Tort Law. His experience includes the representation of public and private corporations, partnerships, national banking institutions and individuals in federal and state courts in a variety of matters including contract disputes, class-action defense and business torts. Mr. Thomas has experience in both civil and criminal matters. Before joining Eckert Seamans, Mr. Thomas gained experience in private practice with a national law firm and served in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps.



Arun Thomas

Arun is a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center and has a B.A. cum laude from Catholic University of America. Admissions: Pennsylvania: All Pennsylvania State Courts; Supreme Court of the United States; U.S. Court of Federal Claims; U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania; U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces; U.S. Court of Criminal Appeals. Arun is a member of the American Bar Association, Pennsylvania Bar Association and Allegheny County Bar Association.



## Leech Tishman Fuscaldo & Lampl's Wesley Yang is Experienced in Many Areas of Tax Law

Wesley Yang joined as a partner of Leech Tishman Fuscaldo & Lampl, LLC in 2007. Wesley is a tax attorney and certified public accountant who has over 30 years of broad experience in many areas of the tax law, including estate planning and administration, asset protection planning, corporate and partnership taxation, international taxation, tax-exempt and governmental organizations and financing. He specializes in the areas of income tax and estate planning for individuals and owners of closely held businesses.

### Academics

- University of Pittsburgh School of Law, J.D.
- University of Pittsburgh, B.A., cum laude
- Study of Cantonese and Mandarin,
  - Taipei Language Institute, Taipei, Taiwan
  - Overseas Chinese Youth Program, Taipei, Taiwan
  - Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
- Graduate Chef's Certification (Cantonese cuisine), South China Institute of Catering, Hong Kong

### Admitted to Practice

- All Courts, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- United States Tax Court

### Professional and Community Activities

- Chairman, University Center for International Studies, Asian Studies Center Advisory Board, University of Pittsburgh, PA (since 2005)
- Member, Finance Committee, Lae Nani Condominium Association of Apartment Owners, Kapaa, Kauai, Hawaii (since 1998)
- Member, Allegheny County Bar Association

### Professional Accolades

- America's Top 100 Attorneys, Worth Magazine (2005 and 2006)
- Pennsylvania's Super Lawyers, Law & Politics Magazine (2004)
- Who's Who in American Law (7<sup>th</sup> Edition)