



Pittsburgh Golden Triangle

# Diverse Pittsburgh

*Embracing Diversity in the Legal Profession*

## Reed Smith Names James Barnes Managing Partner of Pittsburgh Office



James J. Barnes

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“I intend to build on Reed Smith’s more than 129 years of history. I welcome this opportunity to assume leadership at the firm.”

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James is the Managing Partner of the Pittsburgh Office and a member of the firm's Corporate & Securities Group. A graduate of Howard University School of Law and Dartmouth College, James has a wide range of experience in corporate and securities law matters. James states, “I intend to build on Reed Smith’s more than 129 years of history. I welcome this opportunity to assume leadership at the firm.”

James has helped numerous companies raise capital in public and private offerings of debt and equity securities. In addition, he regularly assists public companies with the preparation and review of their SEC periodic reports. James also has extensive experience representing companies in merger and acquisition, joint ventures and other complex corporate transactions.



Alba A. Romano

## Alba Romano – Civil Defense Litigation Expert

A graduate of Tulane University School of Law and Spring Hill College, Alba Romano's practice has been exclusively in civil defense litigation since 1987. Alba is presently a partner with Riley, Hewitt & Sweitzer, P.C.

Her trial experience has been in the areas of products liability, premises liability, motor vehicle liability, insurance coverage, professional liability, asbestos defense and asbestos litigation management.

Alba has managed caseloads of over 10,000 plaintiffs nationwide, including discovery, witness development, trial work and negotiations.

Alba is fluent in Spanish and is a member of the Hispanic National Bar Association and the Hispanic Bar Association of Southwestern Pennsylvania.

## Mission Statement

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



We are pleased to participate in Pittsburgh's Inaugural Diversity Festival. The Pittsburgh region has always played a significant role in the development of young professionals and has provided many employment options in business, government, and non-profit organizations. In the legal profession, there are many successful attorneys who have made Pittsburgh their home.

In 2004, The Allegheny County Bar Association (ACBA) launched its Diversity Initiative that now embraces a Summer Intern Program for African-American High School Students in Pittsburgh and a Summer Clerkship Program for first-year minority law students studying law at the University of Pittsburgh, Duquesne University or West Virginia University Law Schools. The Western Pennsylvania Diversity Initiative and the ACBA have also agreed to partner on diversity strategies along with the Hispanic Bar Committee and the Homer S. Brown Law Association.

In this newsletter, we have placed the spotlight on six successful minority attorneys from several law firms and corporations as a way of making attendees aware of some of the rising stars in the legal community. Through the ongoing efforts of The Allegheny County Bar Association to promote diversity, we have been able to become aware of these outstanding individuals, their backgrounds, practice areas and contributions to the community.

These attorneys serve as role-models for the next generation of minority attorneys who may choose to follow their pathway to diversity in Pittsburgh. I am impressed to learn how much these individuals have achieved and that they have elected to work and live here. I am confident that you will also be impressed.

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### Thorp, Reed & Armstrong's Best Defense

A graduate of Syracuse University College of Law and State University of New York, Marilyn Martinez-Walker is an attorney in the Commercial and Corporate Litigation Practice Group at Thorp Reed & Armstrong. She handles defense cases including product liability and general litigation matters and medical device litigation, personal injury, premise liability, municipal tort liability, property damage and subrogation cases.

Marilyn is a Board Member of the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Deputy Regional President for Region IV, Hispanic Attorneys Committee of the Allegheny County Bar Association Member and the Allegheny County Bar Association. Speaker on the topic of "ADR in Practice: Diverse Choices/Diverse Perspectives," Chatham College. Speaker at Pennsylvania Bar Association's First Annual Diversity Summit, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 2006.



**Marilyn Martinez-Walker**

Marilyn has provided pro bono services to Spanish-speaking clients on general litigation matters.

**Diverse Pittsburgh**

Allegheny County Bar  
Association  
400 Koppers Building  
436 Seventh Avenue  
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## Eddie Edwards, Jr. – Young and Successful in Pittsburgh

Eddie Edwards, Jr. is an Associate with the law firm of Burns, White & Hickton and concentrates his practice in the area of business law, entertainment law and sports management.

Eddie has also served as the agent/representative for professional athletes, and is a licensed contract advisor by the National Football League Players Association. He has structured and negotiated contracts with various professional football organizations and negotiated marketing agreements on behalf of his clients. As vice president of Glencairn Limited, a Pittsburgh-based television holding company, Eddie managed the compliance and legal needs of the company's television properties and oversaw the day-to-day operations in eight major markets across the United States.



**Eddie Edwards, Jr.**

A varsity athlete at Pennsylvania State University, Eddie received his undergraduate degree in Communications in 1995. He earned his Juris Doctor in 2001 from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, where he received the University of Pittsburgh Student Leadership Award. Eddie also was a Murrey S. Love Moot Court Winner in 2000 and a Gourley Moot Court Finalist in 2001. He received an Excellence in Litigation from the Center for Forensic Economic Studies Award and a CALI Excellence for the Future Award for Trial Advocacy in 2001.

A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Eddie serves on the Board of Directors of the American Heart Association and the Community Board of First National Bank.

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## Jeanette Ho's Practice Places Emphasis on Civil Rights

Jeanette Ho is a partner in the Litigation Defense, Insurance Coverage and Appellate Practice Groups of Pietragallo Bosick & Gordon LLP. A graduate of Carnegie Mellon and the University of Pittsburgh Law School, Jeanette's practice concentrates in the area of general litigation with emphasis on civil rights, municipal liability, negligence and products liability.



**Jeanette H. Ho**

Jeanette's professional memberships include the American Inns of Court. She is a past co-vice chair of the Minority Bar Committee of the Pennsylvania Bar Association. She is also a Fellow of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation and a member of the Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners.

Jeanette has given presentations regarding interlocutory appeals in the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, employment discrimination issues relating to public employers and bad faith law in Pennsylvania and West Virginia.



Michelle Ritter

## Michelle Ritter Manages PPG's Environment, Health and Safety Section

Senior Counsel for PPG, Michelle graduated from Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Pittsburgh Law School. Michelle I. Ritter joined PPG's Law Department in 1991 after working for a Pittsburgh law firm, for 3-1/2 years.

"I had very limited experience with environmental law prior to joining PPG, but I learned quickly that it is a very dynamic and interesting area of practice. I currently manage the Environment, Health and Safety Section of the Law Department.

My practice covers regulatory, transactional, real estate, administrative and other matters. I work with a diverse group of PPG employees across several strategic business units. This opportunity and exposure promotes my professional development as well as my personal knowledge of different cultures.

Three key aspects about PPG I enjoy: the people (professional and supportive), the work environment (engaging and positive), and the multi-dimensional practice of environmental law (many opportunities, challenges and the fast-paced industry)."

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## Reed Smith's Glenn Mahone

A graduate of Duquesne University Law School, Yale University and Pennsylvania State University, Glenn's practice includes a wide range of business law subjects, including mergers and acquisitions, leveraged buyouts, rights and remedies of minority shareholders, corporate and partnership organization, reorganization and governance, radio broadcast property acquisition, commercial contracts and public and private issuance of securities, including tax-exempt financing (including refundings). He has served as bond counsel, underwriters' counsel and issuer's counsel across a broad range of state and municipal authority transactions and has represented institutional investors and issuers in private placements.

Glenn has represented major multinational corporations in the divestiture of business units and strategic structural reorganizations. Glenn's clients include emerging entrepreneurial enterprises, professional corporations and multinational corporations.



Glenn Mahone

- Allegheny County Airport Authority - Chairman
- Allegheny County Bar Association
- American Bar Association
- Duquesne University - Trustee
- Homer S. Brown Law Association
- Manchester-Bidwell Corporation - Chairman
- Matthews International Corporation - Director
- National Bar Association
- Westminster College - Trustee