



Pittsburgh Golden Triangle

Diverse Pittsburgh

Focusing on the Legal Profession

DIVERSE YOUNG LAWYERS ASSUME LEADERSHIP ROLES

Audrey Kwak's practice consists of general commercial civil litigation, with experience in the areas of complex construction and contractual disputes. She focuses her practice in the area of construction litigation. In this area, her practice has consisted of the resolution of disputes commonly arising on private and public projects, including issues of nonpayment, delay, mechanics' liens, defective work, extra cost and extra work. In addition to her construction law practice, Audrey has significant experience in the areas of complex commercial contract, antitrust and intellectual property matters.



Audrey Kwak

Audrey serves as assistant trial counsel in trade secret litigation, resulting in multi-million dollar jury awards. She is counsel in payment disputes with various suppliers on behalf of contractors and subcontractors. Audrey is assistant trial counsel in disputes involving breaches of asset purchase agreement and advises contractors and subcontractors with respect to potential claims with public agencies.

Audrey advises business owners in complex commercial contract disputes. She has experience with various intellectual property disputes and litigation, including patent infringement litigation, patent false marking suits, and opposition proceedings before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board.

Her experience includes defending antitrust claims, including considerable briefing responsibility that ultimately resulted in dismissal of action.

Audrey has a J.D. from Boston College Law School, was Editor-in-Chief, *Boston College Third World Law Journal* and achieved a B.A. in Psychology, Brown University, *with honors*.

Audrey's Professional Affiliations include Allegheny County Bar Association, Construction Law Section Member, Chair of Asian Attorneys Committee (2009-2011), Diversity Collaborative Committee Member, YLD Council Member; Women's Bar Association of Western Pennsylvania; Treasurer Pennsylvania Bar Association; Member of the Commission on Women in the Profession and Minority Bar Committee; American Bar Association, Construction Law Section and Commercial Litigation Section.



Diverse Attorneys Taking on Leadership Roles

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

Over the last six years, the Diversity Committee and its various Task Forces (Community Outreach, Courts and Government Agencies, Law Schools, and Law Firms and Corporate Law Departments) developed guidelines for increasing diversity in the legal community in Allegheny County. The Committee and its Task Forces submitted a plan of action to the Opportunities for Minorities Committee for review and input. One of the noteworthy programs that evolved, the Summer Clerkship Program, resulted in the recruitment and hiring of diverse attorneys in law firms, corporate law departments and government agencies and the courts. In support of the overall Diversity Initiative, affinity groups like the Asian Attorneys Committee, under the leadership of attorney Audrey Kwak, was formed to further the continuing mission of the Asian Attorneys Committee to represent the interests of Asian attorneys, judges, law professors, law students, and other legal professionals in Western Pennsylvania. The Asian Attorneys Committee works to promote the recruitment, retention, and professional development of Asians in the legal profession. The committee, chaired by Audrey Kwak, serves as a catalyst for the advancement of the local Asian community.

Similar affinity groups are the African-American Homer S. Brown Law Association chaired by attorney Regina Wilson and the Hispanic Attorneys Committee chaired by attorney Nadia Lazo. Each of the groups carries out its mission with the support and sponsorship of the Allegheny County Bar Association. The ongoing activities of these affinity groups provide an opportunity for young attorneys to experience leadership development while acting as the chairs and addressing common leadership issues, such as decision making, forming strategy, change management, and leading teams. We are encouraged to find that new leaders are emerging each year through various aspects of the Diversity Initiative who can be influential in the legal community of Pittsburgh long term.

Regina Wilson Leads the Homer S. Brown Law Association

Regina Wilson is a Conflicts Analyst with K&L Gates in Pittsburgh. She was previously an associate with the law firm of Goehring, Rutter & Boehm, where her practice included local taxation and collection, as well as family law.

Regina is President of the Homer S. Brown Law Association, an affiliate of the National Bar Association. Prior to graduating from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, Regina worked as a Certified Legal Intern at the Community Economic Development Clinic. She graduated *cum laude* from Baldwin-Wallace College, where she studied French, along with International Studies.



Regina Wilson

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Tony Thompson Serves as Chair of the Diversity Committee of the Young Lawyers Division

Tony J. Thompson is an associate at Meyer, Unkovic & Scott LLP, and is a member of the firm's Construction, Business Litigation, Tort Litigation and Intellectual Property Groups.

Tony has represented plaintiffs and defendants in both state and federal courts, as well as in arbitration proceedings, on a wide variety of complex commercial litigation matters.



Tony Thompson

The clients that Tony has represented range from international corporations to sole proprietorships to individuals. He has handled cases involving breach of contract, commercial landlord-tenant disputes and collection matters. He has defended and prosecuted construction claims for additional compensation for extra work, delays and disruptions and has assisted contractors in filing mechanics' liens to protect their ability to recover payment for their work.

Tony earned his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. While in law school, he served as a legal writing teaching assistant. Prior to joining Meyer, Unkovic & Scott in 2007, he served as law clerk to the Honorable R. Stanton Wettick, Jr. of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County.

Tony is a member of the Allegheny County and Pennsylvania Bar Associations. He serves in a leadership role with the Allegheny County Bar Association, having been elected to the Young Lawyers' Division Council in 2007. He also serves as Chair of the Diversity Committee, a committee charged with enhancing the practice for young lawyers with diverse backgrounds in Allegheny County.

Travelers Nadia Lazo Leads the Hispanic Attorneys Committee



Nadia Lazo

Nadia Lazo leads as Counsel at Travelers. Lazo has been an active member of the Young Lawyers Division Public Service Committee and Diversity Committee and lead initiatives increasing minority participation within the Young Lawyers Division. She is also an active member of the ACBA Hispanic Attorneys Committee, serving as chair, and the ACBA Sole and Small Firm Practitioners Section. She also serves as a pro bono attorney for Neighborhood Legal Services Association's Protection from Abuse and Custody Conciliation Programs.

Previously, Nadia was an associate at JBM Legal, LLC. She was the sole member of the firm's General Litigation Group.

Nadia is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and earned her law degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. She is fluent in Spanish with knowledge of French and Czech.