

Women's Bar Association
of Massachusetts

Women's Leadership Initiative

Class of 2020



WBA Women's Leadership Initiative

Class of 2020 Facebook

The WLI is a program that brings together senior women attorneys and up and coming stars of the legal profession for leadership development and mentoring. The program is chaired by Erin Higgins, Partner at Conn Kavanaugh, Rosenthal, Peisch & Ford, LLP, and Meredith Ainbinder, Deputy General Counsel of Emerson College, along with Mary Ryan, Partner at Nutter McClennen & Fish LLP, as Senior Chair.

The 2020 Class includes women practicing in firms, government, and in-house, touching a wide variety of sectors/industries including the criminal justice system, higher education, legal services, and the financial services and biotechnology industries. With a record number of applicants this year, it is clear that the desire for leadership training and building connections with accomplished women lawyers is strong.



Azure Aronsson

Counsel, Hogan Lovells

White-collar criminal defense, commercial litigation, investigations

JD year: 2007

Azure Aronsson, Counsel with Hogan Lovells, represents clients in all phases of white-collar criminal and civil prosecution matters, government and internal investigations, and complex civil litigation. Her work with companies, executives, and licensed professionals spans many industries, with a focus on the healthcare, medical device, pharmaceutical, and financial services sectors. Azure is experienced in handling internal and government investigations relating to false claims, wire fraud, government contract fraud, off-label marketing, and public corruption. Her civil litigation practice focuses on product liability litigation including individual, mass tort, and multi-district litigation, as well as employment discrimination matters. Azure devotes her pro bono work to representing individuals seeking special immigrant juvenile status or asylum in the United States as a volunteer attorney for Kids in Need of Defense.



Saraa Basaria

Associate, Todd & Weld

Commercial litigation, criminal defense

JD year: 2012

Saraa Basaria is a commercial litigation attorney at Todd & Weld LLP in Boston, concentrating her practice on commercial disputes, employment law, medical malpractice, and criminal defense. She also works on pro bono and civil rights matters. Prior to joining Todd & Weld, Ms. Basaria was a civil litigation attorney at a national law firm where she represented clients in a variety of matters, including commercial litigation, construction litigation, professional liability, land use/zoning litigation, and employment disputes and counseling. She began her career as a public defender with the Committee for Public Counsel Services, representing indigent defendants in District Court proceedings in Brockton, Roxbury, and Dorchester. Ms. Basaria served as president of the South Asian Bar Association of Greater Boston (2016-2017), and on the Board of Directors of the South Asian Bar Association of North America (2016-2017). She currently serves as Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the South Asian Bar Association of North America Foundation. She is a 2017 graduate of the Massachusetts Bar Association's Leadership Academy, and serves as Secretary of the MBA's Young Lawyers Division's Board of Directors and is a member of the Diversity Task Force. Ms. Basaria also serves on her firm's Diversity Committee.



Jessica Babine

Partner and Firm Owner,
Cornetta Babine LLC

Civil litigation, real estate

JD year: 2009

Attorney Babine is a partner at Cornetta Babine LLC. She actively practices law in both Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Her experience includes representing individuals, towns, and businesses in civil litigation, real estate conveyancing, quiet title actions, takings, workers' compensation, and personal injury. Immediately prior to becoming a partner at Cornetta Babine LLC, Jessica served for three years as lead New Hampshire counsel at a national law firm's Boston office, focusing on commercial litigation. Attorney Babine has successfully represented clients before the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, New Hampshire Supreme Court and the Massachusetts Appeals Court. She is the co-chair of the Legislative Policy Committee and on the Board of Directors for the Women's Bar Association, the Board of Directors for the Essex County Bar Association, the Board of Directors for North Shore Women in Business, the Board of Directors for her neighborhood association, and in the Real Estate Law Section Council for the Massachusetts Bar Association.



Margaret Caulfield

Director, Research and Development
Counsel, Alkermes, Inc.

Research & Development, Pharma/Biotech

JD year: 2009

Margaret is Research and Development Counsel for Alkermes, Inc., a global biopharmaceutical company. In this position, Margaret directs legal counsel, transactional support and strategic guidance on matters related to clinical trials, medical affairs activities, and pre-clinical research and development. Margaret is a member of her company's Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Steering Committee. Margaret serves on the Women's Bar Association's (WBA) Board of Directors and previously co-chaired the WBA's New Lawyers Committee and the WBA's annual Gala. In addition, Margaret is a Trustee on the Women's Bar Foundation (WBF) where she co-chairs the WBF's auction for Comedy Night and serves on the Development and Stewardship Committee. Margaret is an alumna of Suffolk University Law School and Bridgewater State University (BSU), where she serves on the Bridgewater Alumni Association's Board of Directors and the BSU Board of Trustees.



Meghan Cooper

Associate, Peabody & Arnold
*Labor & employment law, civil litigation
defense*

JD year: 2011

Meghan is a senior litigation associate at Peabody & Arnold LLP, where her practice focuses on employment law, defending, advising and counseling employers, and insurance coverage litigation. Prior to joining Peabody & Arnold, Meghan began her career as a litigator at a small firm (Nolan | Perroni P.C.) representing unions and union members in labor disputes. She earned her bachelor's degree, *summa cum laude*, from Loyola University Maryland before attending law school at New England Law | Boston, where she graduated as valedictorian, *summa cum laude*, in 2011. After graduation, Meghan served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Chief Justice Paul A. Suttell of the Rhode Island Supreme Court.

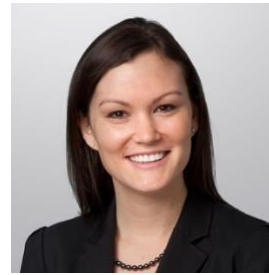


Michele Detherage

Associate, Robins Kaplan LLP
Insurance, business litigation

JD year: 2009

Michele Detherage is a litigator at Robins Kaplan LLP. As a member of her firm's insurance practice group, she handles large loss litigation matters from inception to resolution and acts as a coverage consultant to a number of insurers. Michele also has experience in the area of employment law, and has assisted clients in navigating employment agreement and workplace discrimination disputes. Prior to joining Robins Kaplan, Michele spent five years as in-house trial counsel for Travelers Indemnity Company. In addition to her professional work, Michele is a member of the Board of Trustees for a non-profit organization dedicated to disrupting the cycle of poverty for single mothers and their children. She also volunteers with various animal rescue organizations.



Courtney Groh

Partner, Holland & Knight
Healthcare, life sciences

JD year: 2008

Courtney Groh is a Boston corporate attorney and partner in Holland & Knight's Healthcare & Life Sciences Team and the Mergers and Acquisitions Team. Courtney focuses her practice on healthcare entities and corporations. She advises a wide range of clients, including health plans, pharmacy benefit managers, pharmaceutical manufacturers, medical device companies, pharmacies, wholesale drug distributors, medical groups, home health agencies, disease management companies, and healthcare technology companies. In particular, Courtney regularly counsels clients in matters involving enforcement of the federal Anti-Kickback Statute, Stark Law, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and the federal False Claims Act (FCA). Courtney also represents clients in a variety of corporate and contractual transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, licensing, and services-related transactions. Prior to moving to Massachusetts in 2011, Courtney practiced in Virginia where she also attended college (James Madison University) and law school (William and Mary). Courtney currently lives in Needham with her husband and four year old daughter.



Amalia Jorns

Staff Attorney, Northeast Legal Aid
Legal services — housing and law

JD year: 2005

Amalia Jorns is a staff attorney with Northeast Legal Aid in Lowell, where she specializes in housing and family law. For two years, she represented low income tenants facing eviction as part of the Lawyer for the Day Program in Northeast Housing Court. She now represents domestic violence survivors in family court proceedings in Middlesex and Essex County. Ms. Jorns is a member of the Middlesex County Committee of the Women's Bar Association. Prior to joining Northeast Legal Aid, Ms. Jorns spent ten years as a commercial litigator with a focus on international investigations, complex commercial litigation, and white collar crime at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP in London and Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP in New York. Ms. Jorns also served a law clerk in the federal District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. She received her bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Illinois and her juris doctor from Columbia Law School.



Nita Kumaraswami Klunder

Attorney, U.S. Securities and
Exchange Commission

Securities fraud

JD year: 2009

Nita Klunder is an attorney in the Division of Enforcement at the SEC's Boston Regional Office. Having recently transitioned after five years as an Assistant Attorney General in the Medicaid Fraud Division, Nita looks forward to continuing to investigate and hold accountable those committing complex fraud. Prior to her work at the Attorney General's office, Nita practiced commercial litigation in Boston and New York, and clerked for the Honorable Stanley R. Chesler in the District of New Jersey.

Nita lives in Needham with her husband, two young children, and parents. Nita received a B.A. from Johns Hopkins University and her J.D. from Columbia Law School.



Stephanie Lin

Senior Associate, WilmerHale

Intellectual property litigation

JD year: 2014

Stephanie Lin is a senior associate at WilmerHale who focuses her practice on intellectual property litigation. She works on patent, copyright and trade secrets litigation in federal district court, appeals before the Federal Circuit, inter partes review proceedings in front of the US Patent Trial and Appeal Board, and patent litigation cases before the International Trade Commission. In addition, Stephanie has represented pro bono clients in federal court and at administrative hearings. Her pro bono clients include several artists, such as the creator of the Pepe the Frog character in his high-profile copyright enforcement actions against alt-right entities. Stephanie is currently active on the WBA's Women of Color Committee, and she is on her firm's Community Service Committee and the Women's Leadership Initiative Planning Committee. She is on the board of the Hyde Square Task Force and a Partner at Social Venture Partners, a network of more than 3,200 engaged donors in 40 cities that helps individuals amplify their giving, fund and strengthen nonprofits, and equip their communities to tackle social challenges.



Elizabeth McEvoy

Partner, Barrett & Singal, P.C.

White-collar, health law, research integrity & misconduct

JD year: 2011

Elizabeth J. McEvoy is a partner in the firm's Litigation practice and Co-Chair of the firm's Research Misconduct Department. Her practice focuses on healthcare litigation, corporate and commercial civil litigation, white-collar criminal defense, scientific research misconduct cases, and professional licensing matters. Elizabeth's civil practice focuses on complex business disputes, and specifically, those disputes arising in Massachusetts' growing healthcare industry. She represents individuals, LLCs, PLLCs, and other entities in navigating a host of business disputes, including partnership disputes, corporate buy-outs, and related claims for breach of contract and violations of the Massachusetts Wage Act. Elizabeth's criminal work focuses on white-collar criminal defense and government investigations. She represents individuals under government scrutiny for possible conspiracy and substantive mail/wire fraud charges as well as individuals and entities charged with violations of a variety of federal fraud statutes. Elizabeth also spends a significant portion of her practice representing individuals and institutions involved in research misconduct matters. She represents individual scientists accused of fabricating and/or falsifying data from the pre-inquiry stage through the inquiry, investigation, and administrative disciplinary stages as well as before the Office of Research Integrity (ORI). She also counsels institutions at all stages of the institutional investigation of reported research misconduct.



Elizabeth Monnin-Browder

Partner, Hirsch Roberts Weinstein LLP

Employment litigation, training, and counseling

JD year: 2010

Elizabeth Monnin-Browder ("Liz") is an experienced employment attorney who focuses her practice on litigation, training, and counseling. She represents companies and non-profits in employment and business disputes across a broad range of industries. Liz understands the business implications and human impact of litigation and works hand-in-hand with her clients to craft strategies that are consistent with their priorities and advance their goals. Liz also provides thoughtful, practical guidance to help her clients avoid litigation so that they can focus on their business. Clients rely on Liz to advise them regarding compliance with employment laws and to help them design and implement new policies. Liz is also an MCAD-certified trainer, and her practice includes training employers about preventing and addressing discrimination and harassment in the workplace and their other legal obligations. Liz has a passion for civil rights, and, in particular, transgender rights, and has written and presented extensively on the topic.



Maggie Morgan

Senior Staff Attorney,
Greater Boston Legal Services
Immigration

JD year: 2011

Maggie Morgan is an attorney at Greater Boston Legal Services specializing in immigration law. Ms. Morgan represents primarily asylum seekers and others seeking humanitarian protection. Before coming to GBLS, Maggie Morgan practiced immigration law for three years at the Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinical Program. Prior to working in immigration law, Maggie was a clinical fellow in the Health Law & Policy Clinic at Harvard Law School, where she worked on national and state-based health law and policy initiatives to increase access to healthcare for low-income citizens. Maggie clerked for the Honorable Nanette K. Laughrey of the Western District of Missouri. Maggie is a 2011 graduate of Harvard Law School.



Rebecca G. Neale

Law Office of Rebecca G. Neale
Domestic relations, estate planning, solo practitioner

JD year: 2007

Rebecca Neale is an attorney and owner of Bedford Family Lawyer, a solo law firm focused on divorce litigation and mediation, and estate planning. She is an Assessor for the Town of Bedford and President of the Board of the Domestic Violence Services Network. Rebecca also provides pro bono representation to survivors of domestic violence in restraining order and domestic relations proceedings, and represented a church that successfully appealed a denial of its application to install solar panels on its historic building. She earned a B.A. from the University of Rochester and a J.D. from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law. At UC Hastings, she was a Co-Editor in Chief of the Hastings Women's Law Journal, and after graduation she clerked for the New York State Court of Appeals. Prior to law school, Rebecca was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Turkmenistan.



Emily Kanstroom Musgrave

Member, Co-Chair - Appellate Practice
Group, Mintz
Litigation, appeals

JD year: 2010

Emily is a partner in Mintz's Litigation Section. Her practice focuses on complex commercial litigation across a variety of areas, including contract disputes, securities litigation and government investigations. She is the Co-Chair of the firm's Appellate Practice Group, and maintains a robust pro bono practice focused on providing legal assistance to asylum seekers and survivors of domestic violence, among others. Emily previously worked as a Special Assistant District Attorney in Middlesex County. Before joining Mintz, Emily served as a law clerk for the Honorable Margot Botsford of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, and for the Honorable Leo T. Sorokin, then a Magistrate Judge, of the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts.



Amy Sennett

General Counsel, Catalant Technologies, Inc.
Technology

JD year: 2012

Amy Sennett is General Counsel at Catalant Technologies, Inc., a Boston-based, venture-backed SaaS company. In this role, Amy leads the legal and compliance functions with responsibility for board governance, corporate finance, equity compensation, customer contracting, information security and data privacy matters. Amy previously worked as an associate at WilmerHale and served as Assistant General Counsel and Vice President of Strategic Initiatives for the Boston bid to secure the 2024 Olympic Games. Amy began her legal career as a law clerk for the Honorable Anita B. Brody on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Amy earned her MBA with distinction from Harvard Business School and her J.D. cum laude from Harvard Law School, where she was President of the Harvard Women's Law Association. A cum laude graduate of Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School, Amy has served since graduation as the Class of 2006 Alumni Class Secretary. Amy is also a Boston board member of Strong Women, Strong Girls. Amy and her husband Dan have run more than 35 marathons together, including five consecutive Boston Marathon finishes as team members of the Martin Richard Foundation, for which they have raised more than \$25,000.



Naomi Shatz

Partner, Zalkind Duncan & Bernstein LLP
Plaintiffs' employment & student rights
JD year: 2008

Naomi is an attorney at Zalkind Duncan & Bernstein LLP, where she represents individuals involved in university discipline, education discrimination, and employment matters. She represents students from elementary school through graduate school, as well as employees and professors involved in discrimination cases and disciplinary proceedings regarding claims of sexual assault, sexual harassment, and academic misconduct. Naomi frequently writes, speaks to the media, and provides legislative testimony about Title IX and student sexual misconduct processes, and was invited to the U.S. Department of Education as an expert on Title IX to speak about how to improve the efficacy of Title IX proceedings. Naomi also advises and represents employees in harassment, discrimination, wage and hour, and other employment matters. Naomi is a graduate of the Yale Law School and Barnard College, and prior to joining Zalkind Duncan & Bernstein she served as a clerk on the Supreme Judicial Court and as a Skadden Fellow at the New York Civil Liberties Union. Naomi has been selected to the Rising Stars list by Super Lawyers each year since 2016, and in 2018 was named an Up & Coming Lawyer by Massachusetts Law Weekly.



Emily Sy

Litigation Counsel, VP, State Street Bank & Trust Company
Finance
JD year: 2012

Emily L. Sy is Vice President and Litigation counsel at State Street Bank & Trust Company. Emily's practice at State Street includes internal investigations related to employee and business conduct; responding to and negotiating state and federal civil and regulatory legal service addressed to state street, including investigations, audits, examinations, subpoenas, civil investigation demands or other similar compulsory processes; and managing outside counsel and third-party vendors on civil and regulatory litigation matters. Prior to joining State Street, Emily was a litigation and white-collar associate at Nixon Peabody LLP located in Boston and New York. Emily is a graduate of the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law and Wellesley College. She serves on the board of the Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts and the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center.



Allison Lukas Turner

Associate, Latham & Watkins LLP
Commercial litigation, products liability
JD year: 2011

Allison (Ally) Lukas Turner is a senior associate in the Boston office of Latham & Watkins LLP and a member of the Litigation & Trial Department. Ms. Turner focuses her practice on products liability litigation, and has experience advising clients on a diverse array of business disputes, including consumer protection, trade secrets, and white collar investigations. Ms. Turner is proud to serve Latham's diversity and inclusion initiatives as a member of the Recruiting Committee and one of three global co-chairs of the firm's Parent Lawyers Group. Ms. Turner earned a B.S. in Human Development from Cornell University and graduated cum laude from Harvard Law School, where she was named a Dean's Scholar in White Collar Criminal Procedure. While in law school, Ms. Turner served as an intern in the Appeals Division of the Essex County District Attorney's Office and in the Child Protection Unit of the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office. After law school, Ms. Turner clerked for Chief Judge John A. Woodcock, Jr. of the United States District Court for the District of Maine. Ms. Turner sits on the Board of Directors of Families First, a non-profit organization working to bring early childhood parenting education to the communities of Boston and beyond.



Destinee Waiters

Suffolk University Office of the General Counsel
Higher education generalist
JD year: 2008

Destinee Waiters is Associate General Counsel at Suffolk University. Prior to joining Suffolk, she served as the Associate Vice President of Compliance and General Counsel at Texas Woman's University, and has been a member Bar since 2008 and has primarily worked in the higher education arena. Prior to her university work, she served as Legislative Staff for Texas State Representative Yvonne Davis. Destinee served as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of College and University Attorneys (NACUA), Class of FY 2015-2018, and has served on various NACUA committees, as Vice-Chair of the Committee on Strategic Planning, as a member of the NACUANOTES Editorial Board, Web Page Legal Resources Committee, Committee on Board Operations and the Committee on Legal Education. In addition, she has spoken at NACUA events on the various topics of university legal compliance and at the National Hispanic Bar Association's Corporate Counsel Conference.



Jennifer Watson

In-house Counsel, Liberty Mutual
Corporate

JD year: 2005

Jennifer Watson is Corporate Counsel in Liberty Mutual Insurance Group's Litigation Department. Her primary responsibilities include managing the defense of extra-contractual liability litigation, and serving as a resource to the corporation's various business units including, but not limited to, the personal property and casualty, worker's compensation and commercial lines of businesses. In addition, she also serves as the National Co-Chair of Liberty Employees of African Descent and Allies ("LEADA") which is one of the corporation's seven employee resource groups. Her days are spent strategizing with outside counsel and partnering with business leaders to effectuate positive impact to the corporation's culture and bottom line. Prior to joining Liberty Mutual, Jennifer handled employment, commercial and general liability matters from inception to resolution at Locke Lord LLP. Jennifer also worked as an associate at Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin and as a Law Clerk in the Middlesex County Superior Court of New Jersey, Civil Division. Jennifer received her Bachelor of Arts from Rutgers University and her Juris Doctorate from Seton Hall Law School. Outside of the office, Jennifer is very active in her local church community and started the Sister to Sister conference where ladies of all ages come together to empower and uplift one another. Additionally, Jennifer enjoys running, swimming, vacationing, dining and salsa dancing.



Whitney Williams

Assistant DA, District Attorney Marian Ryan
Middlesex County

JD year: 2013

Whitney Williams is an Assistant District Attorney for the Middlesex District Attorney's Office. She grew up on a family farm in Illinois and moved to Massachusetts to attend Harvard University. There, she studied Slavic Languages and Literature and received a language citation in Russian. She then attended Boston College Law School, where she developed a passion for public service and, particularly, criminal prosecution. After law school, she began at the Middlesex DA's Office, where she has worked in district, juvenile, and superior courts. She is currently assigned to the Lowell Superior Court Trial Team.