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In the News

In the law firms

MARCH 2, 2012



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Locke, Lord LLP has elected five new members, including one from its Chicago office, to its 15-member board of directors.

The new Chicago member is [Steven T. Whitmer](#). He focuses his practice on complex commercial litigation and arbitration matters.

The other Chicago partners on the board include [Jennifer A. Kenedy](#) and [Jon Biasetti](#).

Kenedy, managing partner of the Chicago office, focuses her practice on commercial litigation. Biasetti handles a variety of corporate, transactional and insurance regulatory matters.

[Miriam Leskovar Burkland](#) of Howard & Howard Attorneys PLLC has been named assistant chairwoman of the firm's corporate practice group. She handles corporate and commercial transactions.

[Tiffany R. Harper](#) has joined Polsinelli, Shughart P.C. as an associate. She comes to the firm from Navistar Financial Corp. and will focus her practice on loan enforcement, commercial litigation and bankruptcy matters.

Holland & Knight LLP announced this week that it will open an office in Bogota, Colombia.

Attorneys in the new office, the firm said, will primarily provide counsel to non-Colombian companies that want to enter the Colombian market.

The firm said it expects the new office to open in April. The Colombia office will be Holland & Knight's 21st office and its second in Latin America.

"Over the past few years, we have experienced a steady increase in the number of engagements for clients with interests in Colombia and the surrounding region," said [Steven Sonberg](#), the firm's managing partner in Florida.

"We expect our Bogota office to become a hub for our growing presence not only in Colombia, but throughout Latin America," he said.

Around town

[Heather R. Kissling](#), a partner at Marshall, Gerstein & Borun LLP, recently served as a panelist in a discussion about professional presence for women in the law.

The Community Outreach Committee of the Coalition of Women's Initiatives in Law Firms hosted the panel discussion Wednesday. Panelists talked about how to create a positive first impression and convey confidence and credibility.

Kissling's firm is a member of the coalition. She focuses her practice on patent prosecution.

Simmons, Browder, Gianaris Angelides & Barnerd LLC has launched a fundraising

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effort to match donations to the Greater St. Louis Labor Council's "\$5 for the Fight" Emergency Relief Fund.

The firm, which has offices in Chicago, Alton, Ill., St. Louis and California, said it will match donations up to \$25,000. Established in 1996, the fund helps union members and their families during financial hardship.

Michael J. Angelides, the firm's managing shareholder, said, "We hope others will be even more motivated to help local union families when they know their donation will go twice as far."


The firm said donations can be made by mailing a check or money order to "\$5 for the Fight," c/o St. Louis Labor Council, 3301 Hollenberg Drive, Bridgeton, Mo. 63044 or at labortribune.com.

In the bar groups


The Women's Bar Association of Illinois will present, "Financial Tips for Successful Women in Uncertain Times," from noon to 1 p.m., March 22, at Petterino's Restaurant, 150 N. Dearborn St.


Heather Locus, owner of Balasa, Dinverno, Foltz LLC, will give the presentation. She leads her wealth management firm's women's service team.


To attend, RSVP by March 19 to **Alycia Dinverno** at (630) 875-4947 or alyciadinverno@bdfllc.com.

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