

LOCKE LORD DIVERSITY AWARENESS

January 2017: Honoring Martin Luther King, Jr.

"That old law about 'an eye for an eye' leaves everybody blind. The time is always right to do the right thing."

Martin Luther King, Jr. believed in a nation of freedom and justice for all, and encouraged all citizens to live up to the purpose and potential of America. He was the chief spokesman for nonviolent activism in the Civil Rights Movement, which successfully protested racial discrimination in federal and state law. In his honor, the MLK Day of Service was established to transform his life and teachings into community action to help solve social problems by empowering individuals to work together to strengthen communities for everyone.

At Locke Lord we are proud of our tradition of giving back and serving our communities. Many of our lawyers serve in leadership roles within non-profit organizations that provide services to underrepresented individuals and have received recognition for their pro-bono efforts. We strive to keep the MLK Day of Service part of our everyday practice. Locke Lord's Partner and immediate Past-President of the American Bar Association, Paulette Brown, led the ABA's Diversity and Inclusion 360 Commission in its one-year (2015-2016) inquiry into how to develop sustainable action plans that will advance diversity and inclusion in the legal profession, the judicial system and the ABA itself.

Other examples of Locke Lord's activity in our community include:

- **Harriet Miers** (Dallas) is a current Commissioner to the Texas Access to Justice Commission, a statewide organization committed to increasing access to justice for low-income Texans.
- **Don Glendenning** (Dallas) is the Past President of the Human Rights Initiative of North Texas, which provides legal and support services to refugees and immigrants who have suffered human rights abuses, advocates for justice and promotes international human rights.
- **Matt McTygue** (Boston Office Managing Partner) has served on the boards of directors and fundraising committees of local non-profit organizations, including GLAD, Transition House and the New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans.
- **David Taylor** (Houston Office Managing Partner) serves on the Advisory Board of the Greater Houston Area Salvation Army.
- In 2017, **Susan Kidwell** (Austin) was elected President for Volunteer Legal Services of Central Texas.
- **Ernesto Palomo** (Chicago) was recently reelected to a four-year term on the Indiana Advisory Committee of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.
- **Elizabeth Mack** (Dallas) currently serves as Chair of the Board of Directors for Texas Appleseed.
- **Christopher Fontenelli** (Morristown) was the first recipient of the New Jersey State Bar Association's (NJSBA) Pro Bono Award: New Attorney, for his volunteer work with Kids in Need of Defense (KIND).
- The Chicago office was honored for its noteworthy pro bono contributions by its inclusion in the Public Interest Law Initiative's Pro Bono Recognition Rosters, and as the recipient of the JTBF Diversity Partnership Award for its work with Chicago middle school students to foster interest in the legal profession and careers in law.
- VETSports, Inc. recognized Locke Lord for pro bono work on behalf of VETSports. We have provided employment law advice to VETSports and helped it obtain trademarks.
- The Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (DVAP) presented Locke Lord with its "Gold Award" for three consecutive years in recognition of the Firm's strong and continued commitment to pro bono work.



Did You Know?

- The campaign for a federal holiday in King's honor began soon after his assassination in 1968. President Ronald Reagan signed the holiday into law in 1983, and it was first observed three years later. At first, some states resisted observing the holiday as such, giving it alternative names or combining it with other holidays. Despite its enactment in 1983, all 50 states did not observe MLK Day until 2000.
- In 1994, the US Congress designated the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday as a national day of service taking place each year on the third Monday in January. Outside of the United States, Hiroshima, Japan and Toronto, Canada both officially recognize MLK Day.
- Martin Luther King, Jr. is most well-known for his nonviolent campaign to end racial segregation and cultivate racial equality in the United States but his teachings reached a world-wide audience and today monuments honoring him are displayed in Washington, DC and cities throughout the United States as well as countries around the globe including England (at Westminster Abbey), Cuba, Australia, Kenya, Sweden and Jerusalem.

The heart of Locke Lord lies within our people and the many different experiences and perspectives we share. We recognize, embrace and celebrate our differences and believe we can only provide our clients with the best possible representation if we reflect the diversity of the clients and communities we serve.

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