

# LOCKE LORD DIVERSITY AWARENESS

February 2016: Black History Month

This month we celebrate Black History Month to highlight the achievements of black Americans and their historic contributions to the Civil Rights Movement and beyond. We would like to recognize not only a significant moment in the Civil Rights Movement - the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the end of bus segregation – but also our own African American partners whose notable achievements and contributions to the Firm and legal community at large deserve recognition.



## THE MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT

The boycott, which began in December 1955, grew from a one-day boycott of the bus system in Montgomery, Alabama into a legal challenge to end bus segregation. Sixty years ago civil rights lawyers, Fred Gray and Charles Langford, filed the federal lawsuit, *Browder v. Gayle*, to end bus segregation. The three-judge panel decided two to one in favor of the plaintiffs that the 1954 Supreme Court ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas* applied not only to public education but to public transportation as well. The U.S. Supreme Court affirmed the panel's ruling in November 1956, bringing an end to bus segregation and the 13-month boycott of Montgomery buses.

## LOCKE LORD PARTNERS



**Arthur Anthony** is a seasoned litigator in the Dallas office who focuses on banking and financial services and construction disputes. He is Co-Chair of the Firm's Board of Directors and is a past President of the J.L. Turner Legal Association. One prominent African American jurist that influenced him was Charles Hamilton Houston, the former Dean of Howard University's School of Law and the architect of the legal strategy aimed at dismantling state-sanctioned segregation, which had a significant impact on his home state of Mississippi.



**David Bogan** advises clients on all aspects of public utility regulation from the Firm's Hartford office. He regularly represents them before administrative agencies, and state and federal courts, as well as advising them on regulatory issues and acquisitions. David is currently New England counsel for CTIA®-The

Wireless Association, and Connecticut and Massachusetts counsel for the New England Cable and Telecommunications Association. He is also the current Chair of the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence.



**Michelle Earley**, a Partner in Austin, handles a wide range of corporate and securities work in merger, acquisition, and disposition transactions, securities regulation matters and securities offerings. She was named a 2009 and 2005 "Rising Star" in Texas Super Lawyers. One quote that has inspired her is: "I have

decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear." Martin Luther King, Jr.



**Denise Hanna** is the Co-Chair of the Firm's Health Care Practice Group and Managing Partner of the Firm's Washington D.C. office. She has been involved in health care legal and public policy matters for over 20 years and represents health insurance and managed care organizations. One of her favorite quotes is: "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character." delivered by Martin Luther King, Jr. as part of the "I Have A Dream" speech on Aug. 28, 1963 during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.



**Jennifer Kinney Parnell** is commercial litigator in the Dallas office. She represents clients in a wide variety of matters including contract disputes, insurance claims and mortgage and lending litigation. She has also acted as general counsel to a regional insurance company. One notable quote that has influenced her is from Martin Luther King, Jr.: "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."



**Jason Sanders** is a Dallas litigator who focuses his practice on complex business and financial services litigation. He has litigated cases throughout the country before state and federal courts and has been repeatedly recognized as a "Rising Star" by *Texas Monthly* magazine.

*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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