

JUNE 2018

# LOCKE LORD'S ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

# LOCKEDin



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# Letter From the Chair



**David Taylor**, Firm Chair

I am excited to share with you this message — my first “official” letter to our extremely valued alumni network since being humbled and honored to take on the role of Chair of Locke Lord earlier this year. I’m even more eager to share with you what the Firm has been up to during the past few months, and what we’re focused on in the very near future.

I was proud of the Firm’s inclusive Leadership Succession Plan for the Chair that took place over more than a year, taking into consideration the input of every Partner in the Firm, the Associates and Diversity Committees and a number of staff regarding what they wanted to see in the next Chair. We will be laser focused in the near term on training the next generation to be leaders and important parts of client teams. We are committed to providing the tools and training necessary for this crucial client succession planning. I was fortunate, over the years, to have

attorneys more senior than me give me opportunities and include me in client matters, and we know that we must have a structured plan ensuring the inclusive transitioning process.

We are also proactively working to better serve our clients and have enhanced our client feedback program.

**Jerry Clements**, our Chair Emeritus, and our Chief Marketing Officer have been sitting down with a number of our clients — some of you who may even be reading this right now — soliciting candid insights on our approach and what we can do to make sure we’re always exceeding our clients’ expectations. We have been developing actionable takeaways that will help improve our client service offerings and ensure we continue to provide our clients with value, and the highest-quality professional, strategic advice and personal service.

In our cover story, you’ll learn about the Firm’s Fintech Industry Team, which we have recently expanded to include a strong bench of UK and U.S. lawyers in order to align with our clients’ increased interests in this developing area. While we have been practicing in this area for more than a decade, we want to make sure the Firm is offering the best inter-disciplinary approach for our clients — including understanding the securities, financial regulation, capital markets, investment funds, corporate, banking transactions, IP and financial service litigation issues that play a role in the ever-evolving FinTech world.

We’re not the only ones with a lot to boast about this spring, and I want to extend my thanks and appreciation to alumna Sarah Chen for taking the time to update us on her role as jack-of-all-trades as Assistant Vice President and Assistant Counsel for The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America and how the Firm played a part in preparing her for that role. In addition, our Los Angeles Office Managing Partner Nina Huerta gives us a sneak peek into her position as President of the Mexican American Bar Foundation. Nina was elected unanimously last year and has been deeply involved in the leadership of the organization, serving as a trustee since 2015.

Stay up to date on these initiatives and more — announcements, QuickStudy articles and other topics — on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#). And, as always, please keep in touch. If you have news that you would like to share with your fellow alumni in future issues, or have any suggestions for our program, please email us at [lockelordalumni@lockelord.com](mailto:lockelordalumni@lockelord.com).

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David F. Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

David Taylor  
Locke Lord Firm Chair

# Introducing New Leadership Across the Firm

Locke Lord Welcomed a Number of New Faces to Our Executive Committee, Board of Directors and at the Office Management Level.

At the beginning of 2018, **David Taylor** assumed the role as Locke Lord's Chair, succeeding **Jerry Clements** as head of the Firm. He was unanimously nominated by Locke Lord's Leadership Succession Committee and then by the Firm's Executive Committee before being ratified by the Firm's Partners. David has spent his entire legal career at Locke Lord, having joined the Houston office after graduating from the University of Texas School of Law in 1988. He served as Houston Office Managing Partner and Chair of the Firm's Finance Committee, and was a member of the Firm's Executive Committee. He has also served in leadership positions within the Firm in Strategic Growth, Practice Development and Recruiting areas. He is a member and former Co-Chair of the Firm's Corporate and Transactional Department.

Locke Lord's Executive Committee members and Partners elected Chicago's **Jennifer Kenedy**, Houston's **Bill Swanstrom** and Dallas' **Tom Yoxall** as Vice Chairs of the Firm's Executive Committee. Jennifer, who most recently served as Managing Partner of the Firm's Chicago office, is the newest member of the Executive Committee, elected by the Partners at the end of 2017. A litigation Partner at Locke Lord since she graduated law school in 1993, Jennifer also serves as the Firm's Deputy General Counsel and Chair of the Firm's Flexible Work Arrangement Committee. Her past leadership roles include serving as Co-Chair of Locke Lord's Board of Directors and as Co-Chair of the Firm's Women's Committee. Bill and Tom have served as Vice Chairs since 2011 and 2017, respectively. The Partners re-elected to new terms on the Executive Committee are Chicago's **Michael Gaertner**, Providence's **Chris Graham**, Hartford's **Alan Levin**, Dallas' **Janis Loegering** and Boston's **George Ticknor**. Also remaining on Locke Lord's Executive Committee are London's **James Channo**, Chicago's **Nick DiGiovanni**, Austin's **Michelle Earley**, Boston's **Rick Manley**, Dallas' **Paul Nason** and Houston's **Mike Peters**.

In February, Locke Lord's Partners elected four new members to its Board of Directors: New York's **Joe Froehlich**, Chicago's **Miki Goodin**, Washington, D.C.'s **Tom Knight** and Providence's **Paul Mahoney**. The Partners re-elected to new terms on the Board are New York's **Greg Casamento**, Los Angeles' **Al Clark**, London's **David Grant**, West Palm Beach's **John Igoe** and Chicago's **Steve Whitmer**. Also remaining on the Board are Co-Chairs **Art Anthony** of Dallas and **Cynthia Bast** of Austin, Chicago's **Baird Allis**, Houston's **Derrick Carson**, New Orleans' **Victoria de Lisle**, Houston's **Laura Edrington**, Washington, D.C.'s **Denise Hanna**, Dallas' **Elizabeth Mack**, Boston's **Stephanie Massey**, Boston's **Matt McTygue**, Houston's **Hanna Norvell**, Boston's **Allison O'Neil**, Austin's **Tai Tran**, Dallas' **Kim Williams** and Stamford's **Scott Wofsy**.

Three Locke Lord offices also saw changes in management. In London, **James Channo** was appointed Office Managing Partner. In addition to serving on the Firm's Executive Committee, James is also the leader of the Firm's Corporate Practice Group in London and is Co-Chair of Locke Lord's International Transactions Practice Group. The Firm named **Laura Edrington** to succeed David Taylor as Houston Office Managing Partner. Laura has been with Locke Lord her entire legal career and is the first woman to serve in this position in Houston. She is a member of the Firm's Board of Directors, Chair of the Firm's Corporate Trust Practice Group and a member of the Women's Initiative and Flexible Work Arrangement Committees. **Michael Renetzky** was chosen to succeed Jennifer Kenedy as Chicago Office Managing Partner. Michael is Co-Chair of Locke Lord's Corporate and Transactional Department and Chair of the Firm's Finance Committee. He is also co-leader of the Firm's Investment Adviser and Alternative Funds practice and a former member of the Firm's Executive Committee and Board of Directors.



# Jack-of-All-Trades: Alumna Sarah Chen

## How Her Exposure to a Variety of Work at Locke Lord Impacts Her Current Role at Guardian Life

### Q. How did your time at the Firm prepare you for your current role?

**A:** My colleagues at Locke Lord taught me how to provide good legal advice while keeping in mind practical realities. This is what I try to do now. The big difference for me between working in a law firm and working in-house is that for the latter you have to be much more of a jack-of-all-trades. There is a lot of variety of work in-house. During my time at the Firm, the bulk of my practice focused on litigation, but I did transactional work as well — for a number of different Partners across offices, including **Carey Barney** (Los Angeles), **Michael Renetzky** (Chicago) and **Robert Romano** (New York). I actually think it was unusual to get that kind of exposure in a law firm. My work now touches on transactional work, but I am periodically involved in litigation, enough so that it has been helpful for me to have that background. It worked out really well and has been helpful for my current role.

### Q. What do you consider your greatest challenge in your current role?

**A:** I found there is a steep learning curve when you leave a firm and go in-house. You're expected to know quite a bit about a lot of different things, and you're expected to know them on the fly — not only from a legal perspective but from a business perspective as well.

### Q. What accomplishment(s) are you most proud of during your time at the Firm?

**A:** I was genuinely proud of all the work we did. We produced good results. The Partners are good about keeping the needs of clients first.

### Q. What do you remember most about your time at the Firm?

**A:** Overall, I remember the Firm consisted of, and continues to consist of, a genuinely nice group of people and very good lawyers. I was lucky enough to have the core group of people I worked with stay the same from when I became a Summer Associate until the day I left, and I learned a lot about being a good lawyer from them. My time at Locke Lord was marked largely, at least personally, by starting a family. I got married when I was a Summer Associate, I had my first daughter when I was a third-year Associate, and my second daughter was born in 2013. The Firm was so supportive when I had my daughters, much more than I thought it needed to be. I thought it said a lot about the kind of people who were running Locke Lord and its New York office.



**Sarah Chen** is Assistant Vice President and Assistant Counsel for New York-based The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America, one of the largest mutual life insurance companies in the United States. The 158-year-old Fortune 500 company serves more than 26 million customers, and has approximately 9,000 employees and a network of over 2,750 financial representatives in 55 agencies nationwide.

Sarah joined Lord Bissell & Brook (a Locke Lord predecessor firm) in 2005 as a Summer Associate while attending Fordham University School of Law and became a first-year Associate in 2006. She left to join Guardian Life in 2015.





# Everything's Coming Up Crypto

## Locke Lord's FinTech Group Makes Cutting-Edge Technology Everyday Routine

As the world becomes increasingly more digital, technological innovation is no longer a choice but instead a necessary survival tool for businesses and organizations. With the emergence of hundreds of digital currencies, shifts in consumer preferences and disruptive technologies and infrastructure, the financial services sector has been redefined. Questions abound for organizations and individuals on the use, regulations, and risks of blockchain, retail and consumer banking, cryptocurrency, artificial intelligence, investment platforms and more.

Cryptocurrencies, such as Bitcoin and Ethereum, are the most known applications of these technologies. The range of potential applications, however, goes beyond cryptocurrencies and includes, for example, trade execution and settlement systems, supply chain management, asset registration, identity management (including AML and KYC purposes) and corporate governance.

As companies and financial institutions shift from research and development to deployment of distributed ledgers, blockchains and smart contracts, they will need to understand the regulatory and legal implications of these singular technologies.

For more than a decade, Locke Lord has been an active player in emergent financial technologies with cross-function Firm operations linking regulatory, transactional and litigation disciplines into a unified, client-focused FinTech team. The FinTech Group is poised to assist clients with strategic solutions that confront the "new normal" in the financial services sector, providing guidance in securities, commodities, investment funds and financial regulation. Locke Lord lawyers are able to assist in the full range of compliance issues that accompany the new technology shifts. They also have substantial knowledge for corporate, banking, intellectual property and financial services litigation needs.

The FinTech Group is dedicated to staying on top of industry trends and following the significant developments in the financial technologies field as the demand for technological innovation continues to grow. Our lawyers have authored a number of items to help clients understand the emerging technologies and their impact as well as changes in regulation. A few examples include:

### Cryptocurrencies as Commodities?

New York's **John Viskocil**, **Bill Foley** and **Casey Howard** and Houston's **Mike Blankenship** co-authored two pieces following developments in determining if cryptocurrency qualified as a commodity. The first, "Back to the Future: Where Bitcoin Derivatives Are Going, We Don't Need Roads," (<https://www.lockelord.com/newsandevents/publications/2017/12/back-to-the-future>) addresses the uncertainty faced from the direct purchase of the particular currencies via digital wallets or through exchanges such as Coinbase and the move to cryptocurrency-based derivatives such as "Cboe Bitcoin Futures" launched on the CBOE Futures Exchange. The authors later examine the CBOE's move to send a letter to the SEC, strongly advocating for the registration of exchange-traded funds that hold cryptocurrencies and digital currency futures. For more information, read "Cboe Offers to Take the SEC to the Cryptocurrency ETF Dance." (<https://www.lockelord.com/newsandevents/publications/2018/03/cboe>)

### The Evolving State of Cryptocurrency Regulations and Initial Coin Offerings

London's **Sean Donovan-Smith** authored an article for Thomson Reuters examining the evolving state of cryptocurrency regulations and initial coin offerings (ICO), discussing types of crypto-related assets, application of regulation and attracting ICOs and crypto funds. For more information, read "The Evolving State of Cryptocurrency Regulations and Initial Coin Offerings." (<https://www.lockelord.com/newsandevents/publications/2018/03/the-evolving-state-of-crypto-currency-regulations>)

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# Mexican American Bar Foundation President Aims to Increase Representation of Hispanic Lawyers in Legal Profession

## Q&A With Locke Lord's Nina Huerta on Her Role as President and More

Locke Lord Los Angeles Office Managing Partner **Nina Huerta** was unanimously elected President of the Mexican American Bar Foundation (MABF) last year. As President, Nina leads the MABF in its mission to enhance the diversity of the legal profession through education. The organization carries out this mission by supporting young women and men of Latino heritage who are pursuing careers in the law. She has been actively involved in the leadership of the MABF, serving as a trustee since 2015.

Nina, who has been with Locke Lord her entire legal career, became the Firm's Los Angeles Office Managing Partner in 2016 and is one of five women to lead a Locke Lord office. She serves as Chair of Locke Lord's Practice Development Committee and is a member of the Firm's Diversity & Inclusion and Women's Initiative Committees. Nina also serves as the Los Angeles Hiring Partner for the Firm's Law School Recruiting Coordinating Committee. Outside of the Firm, Nina is a member of the Latina Lawyers Bar Association. She focuses her practice on business and employment litigation and has represented companies in cases involving claims of employment discrimination and harassment, employment misclassification, breach of contract and wage and hour violations. Nina has assisted clients with defending class actions, including wage and hour class actions brought under the Fair Labor Standards Act and California Labor Code.

### **Q: As President, what major projects have been your focus?**

**A:** MABF has been the major underwriter of legal education for Latino law students for years. No non-university affiliated organization, including the Hispanic National Bar Association Scholarship Fund and the California Bar Foundation, has given more money to support Latino law students in the United States (over \$2.5 million to date). As the cost of legal education continues to rise, one of our major projects is growing our endowment, which we created in 2016. At the end of 2017, our endowment grew to over \$1 million. Growing our endowment is critical to keeping pace with the rising cost of legal education, and we are constantly reviewing strategies to achieve that goal.

### **Q: What are you most proud of since becoming President?**

**A:** We are most proud of our scholars, first and foremost. Every year, we meet students who have overcome substantial obstacles to pursue their dreams of being a lawyer. Among them are students who provide care and support to family members, who work multiple jobs, face medical challenges, have traveled great distances to attend law school and more. Usually our scholars are the first in their families to pursue a college education, let alone a legal education. These are resilient people who aren't afraid of a challenge. Our country and our profession will be better one day for having these hardworking, committed and talented students practicing law.

Apart from our scholars, I am proud of our board members. We are a 100 percent volunteer board comprised of private law firm lawyers, like myself, government lawyers, in-house lawyers, professors and judges. Our trustees work many late nights and weekends to make our Foundation successful. I am constantly amazed by how freely our trustees make personal sacrifices so we reach our goals.

*(continued on page 10)*



Nina Huerta presenting Bridget Spencer (UCLA), with the Locke Lord Scholarship Award at the MABF 2018 Gala on June 9 in Los Angeles

# Locke Lord Lawyers Step Up and Stand Out

## Firm, Practice Groups and Individuals Recognized for Exceptional Achievements

Lawyers from across the Firm continue to be recognized for talent, service and achievements inside and outside the office. Below are just some of our recent recognitions:



Boston Partner **David Szabo** was honored by the Massachusetts Health Data Consortium with the Dolores L. Mitchell Investing in Information Award. The award recognizes his achievements in investing capital, knowledge and leadership to use information to innovate health care delivery, financing and policy. He is the first individual to receive the award twice, having been honored previously in 2007.



Princeton Partner **Paulette Brown** was selected by the Executive Women of New Jersey (EWNJ) as a Salute Honoree for her exceptional professional accomplishments and advancing the cause of women's leadership. She was recognized among other high-achieving New Jersey women leaders from both the private and public sectors at EWNJ's signature gala.



Chicago Partner **Patrick Byrnes** was selected as one of the world's leading practitioners of aviation law by the 2018 edition of Who's Who Legal Aviation: Contentious. Patrick was included among leading aviation lawyers across three areas of practice — finance, contentious and regulatory.

Two Locke Lord deal teams from the Firm's **Energy Practice Group** were winners at the Association for Corporate Growth Houston's inaugural awards ceremony in the categories of Midstream Deal of the Year and Oil and Gas Deal of the Year (<\$1B). The event celebrated Houston's booming middle-market deal community.



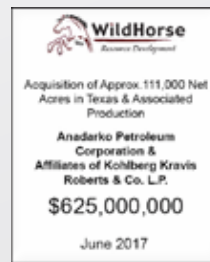
Locke Lord was presented with the Children's Law Center (CLC) 2017 Champions for Children Award, which recognizes the Firm's longtime support of the legal service provider in Washington, D.C. The Champions for Children campaign is spearheaded by CLC's Advisory Board, which includes Locke Lord Washington, D.C., Partner **Jennifer Brough**.



For Midstream Deal of the Year, a Locke Lord team led by Houston Partner **Bill Swanstrom** represented American Midstream Partners LP in its merger agreement with JP Energy Partners LP to create a combined midstream platform. The combined partnership has an estimated enterprise value of \$2 billion and creates a diversified midstream business operating in leading North American basins. Additional Locke Lord team members included Dallas Partner **Van Jolas**, Houston Partners **David Taylor**, **Mitch Tiras** and **Jeff Wallace** and Houston Associates **Devon Cox** and **Ben Smolij**.



Houston Partner **David Patton** received the prestigious Ernest E. Smith Lifetime Achievement Award by The Texas Journal of Oil, Gas, and Energy Law. He was only the 13th recipient of the award, an accolade presented to individuals for significant contributions to the oil, gas and energy industry.



For Oil and Gas Deal of the Year (<\$1B), a Locke Lord team led by Houston Partners **Terry Radney**, **Mitch Tiras** and **Hunter Summerford** represented WildHorse Resource Development Corporation in the acquisition of approximately 111,000 net acres in Texas and associated production from Anadarko Petroleum Corporation and affiliates of Kohlberg



Four Locke Lord lawyers — Los Angeles' **Jonathan Bank**, Chicago's **Jon Biasetti** and **Nick DiGiovanni** and Hartford's **Alan Levin** — were chosen by general counsel and private practice lawyers worldwide for The International Who's Who of Insurance & Reinsurance Lawyers 2018 list.

Kravis Roberts & Co. L.P. for \$625 million. Additional Locke Lord team members included Houston Partners **Greg Heath**, **Jerry Higdon**, **Sara Longtain**, **Tammi Niven**, **Ed Razim**, Dallas Partner **Van Jolas** and Houston Associate **Kerstie Moran**.



Three lawyers from Locke Lord's **Trademark, Copyright and Advertising Practice** — London's **Ben Hitchens** and **John Olsen** and New York's **David Weild III** — were recognized in the 2018 edition of the World Trademark Review 1000. The Firm's Trademark Practice also received a bronze band ranking in the United Kingdom: England.

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# Locke Lord Adds New Talent in Offices Around the Globe

Locke Lord continues to add depth and breadth through the additions of new Partners across the Firm's 20 offices, most recently in its Dallas, Hong Kong, London, New York and West Palm Beach offices.



**Will Becker** joined Locke Lord's Dallas office as a Partner in the Firm's Tax Department, and he serves as Chair of its Mergers and Acquisitions section. He is well versed in federal income, Texas franchise and sales and use tax matters, with an emphasis on mergers and acquisitions, capital markets, REITs, real estate joint ventures, acquisitions and dispositions, corporate reorganizations, spin-offs and restructurings. Will assists clients in analyzing a variety of tax matters and their impact on corporations, S corporations, partnerships, limited liability companies, real estate investment trusts, hedging transactions and other derivative transactions.



**Nick Dent** joined the Firm's London office as a Partner in the Labor and Employment Practice Group. His practice focuses on advising clients in the financial and professional services and media sectors on the full range of their employment issues, including high-value discrimination and bonus claims. He has extensive experience advising on collective redundancies and frequently advises on the employment aspects of outsourcing and insolvency-related and other corporate transactions.



**Andrew Otis**, an experienced environmental lawyer, joined Locke Lord's New York office as a Partner in the Firm's Environmental Section of the Real Estate and Real Estate Finance Practice Group. He provides clients strategic and cost-effective solutions to their remediation, permitting and compliance needs. He advises clients in the commodity trading, mining and energy sectors, and he has experience in international arbitrations involving claims outside the United States. Andrew routinely helps clients navigate environmental risks, advising on numerous domestic and cross-border mergers and acquisitions, financings and real estate developments.



**David Savell**, a risk, compliance and regulatory lawyer, joined the Firm as a Partner in the London office. He has advised both corporations and individuals on regulatory and criminal work ranging from regulatory concerns, reporting obligations, initial stages of investigations, interviews under caution and restraint proceedings to appeal and confiscation. He also has experience in a wide variety of advisory and contentious matters in the areas of sanctions, anti-money laundering and the UK Bribery Act, including advising on related compliance policies and procedures.



**Ronald Sum** joined Locke Lord's Hong Kong office as a Partner in the Firm's International Arbitration Practice Group. He is the Firm's Head of Arbitration, East Asia. He concentrates his practice in all areas of dispute resolution and non-contentious matters, with an emphasis on China-related matters, cross-border disputes, transportation, international trade, insurance and reinsurance, product liability and product recall, including arbitration, litigation, mediation and investigations. Ronald is a fellow member of the Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators and the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. He is Chairman of the International Chamber of Commerce Hong Kong Arbitration and ADR Sub-Committee.



**Joe Vallo** joined the Firm in the West Palm Beach office as a Partner in the Business Litigation and Dispute Resolution Practice Group. Joe focuses his practice on securities arbitration and mediation as well as securities litigation. He has wide-ranging experience in retail brokerage compliance in domestic and international markets. Earlier in his career, Joe served as senior vice president and senior litigation counsel for Wachovia Securities, LLC, now known as Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC, where he supervised the firm's major litigations and arbitrations.



**Chrissy Williford** joined Locke Lord's Dallas office as a Partner in the Firm's Corporate Practice Group. Chrissy has a broad corporate and securities practice with a focus on representing both buyers and sellers in private M&A transactions, as well as capital market transactions and SEC reporting and compliance. She regularly advises clients on corporate governance and other general corporate matters. She has represented a wide range of companies, from Dow 30 and Fortune 150 companies to small, privately held companies, including startups.



# Fifth Time's the Charm

## Locke Lord Lawyers Commit to Improving Diversity in the Legal Profession as LCLD Fellows

For the fifth consecutive year, Locke Lord has had a lawyer participate in the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity (LCLD) Fellows Program, which identifies, trains and advances the next generation of leaders in the legal profession. The Firm's lawyers have participated with LCLD's top leadership in conferences and projects aimed at increasing leadership and relationship skills for lawyers who are committed to creating a more diverse and inclusive legal profession.



2018

Locke Lord Dallas Associate **Marc Cabrera** was selected as this year's LCLD Fellow. He represents banks, lenders, servicers and investors in a high-volume docket of complex business and financial services litigation in state and federal courts. Marc has experience dealing with claims for wrongful foreclosure, breach of contract, constitutional violations, torts and violations of unfair and deceptive acts and practice statutes as well as cases arising under various federal statutes and regulations.

Marc is a contributing author of the Third Edition of the Texas Foreclosure Manual. He has been named a Rising Star by Super Lawyers magazine from 2014-2018 and is a member of the Dallas Bar Association and the Dallas Hispanic Bar Association. He is a graduate of Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law and Southern Methodist University.



Previous Locke Lord LCLD Fellows include:



**Bilal Zaheer**  
Chicago Partner

2017



**Michelle Earley**  
Austin Partner

2016



**Art Anthony**  
Dallas Partner

2015



**Ernesto Palomo**  
Chicago Partner

2014

## Locke Lord Lawyers Step Up and Stand Out *(from page 7)*

Chicago's **Roger Fross** received the Don Michael Randel Community Service Award from the South East Chicago Commission (SECC) for his outstanding contributions to not only the SECC but the community overall. Roger has served on the SECC Board of Directors for over forty years, most recently as its Vice President.

Locke Lord was ranked among the top 40 law firms for client service performance by BTI Consulting Group in its report, "BTI Client Service A-Team 2018." The report, which is compiled based on multitudes of in-depth interviews with legal decision makers at the world's leading organizations from multiple industry segments, ranks hundreds of law firms that deliver the best client service on a consistent basis. In addition, the Firm was recognized as a leader in providing corporate legal departments with value for the dollar.

Locke Lord achieved a 100 percent rating in the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's 2018 Corporate Equality Index for the second consecutive year. The Firm's perfect score in this annual report evaluating LGBTQ-related policies and practices earned the Firm the distinction of a "Best Place to Work for LGBTQ Equality."



Legal directory Chambers USA has ranked 55 Locke Lord lawyers and 18 of the Firm's practice areas for excellence in its 2018 edition. Nine of the Firm's lawyers have achieved Band 1 rankings in their respective practice areas, and the Firm's Energy: Oil & Gas (Transactional) practice has earned a national distinction.

## Mexican American Bar Foundation President Aims to Increase Representation of Hispanic Lawyers in Legal Profession *(from page 6)*

**Q: According to statistics from the Hispanic National Bar Association, Hispanics comprise about 4 percent of U.S. lawyers, while Hispanic women account for less than 2 percent of American lawyers. How do we make progress on increasing the representation of Hispanic lawyers in the legal profession?**

**A:** *Financial access to legal education remains a major obstacle to diversifying the legal profession. Many of our applicants have more than \$200,000 in school loan debt when they apply for our scholarships. These are students who have taken a great leap of faith to pursue their legal education. We just need to help them get to the finish line.*

**Q: How do you juggle being Managing Partner of Locke Lord's Los Angeles office, President of the Mexican American Bar Foundation and a mother?**

**A:** *I learned early in life that being organized isn't a personality trait, it's a commitment to spending some time each day planning and looking ahead. I also have a supportive (and equally busy) husband, and we try to balance each other out when one of us is going through a particularly busy time. Finally, Locke Lord "walks the walk" and has always been incredibly supportive of my work for MABF.*

**Q: What advice would you give to young lawyers, and especially Hispanic lawyers?**

**A:** *I would tell them to seek out mentors and allies, whether it be at their own employer or elsewhere, and to spend time growing those relationships. I think young lawyers — especially in the age of social media and electronic communications — fail to recognize the extent to which the legal industry remains a relationship business. And sometimes they are also too shy to put themselves out there. Don't be shy. Just remember that mentorship is a two-way street. Most mentors are happy to help but want to know that you are listening, that you are open to advice and that you are considerate of their time (e.g., don't cancel a lunch multiple times because "you are busy" — everyone is busy).*



Nina Huerta  
Office Managing Partner  
Los Angeles

### Fraud Regulation in Cryptocurrencies by CFTC

John, Bill and Casey also co-authored a piece after the Commodities Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) was announced as the leading fraud regulator for cryptocurrency and virtual currency transactions after a landmark decision in *CFTC v. Patrick K. McDonnell, et al.* The Court's ultimate conclusion — that cryptocurrencies should be treated as commodities — was based on the fact that they exhibit commodity-like qualities. For more information, read "Regulators...Mount Up! Federal District Court Formally Recognizes Cryptocurrencies as Commodities and Designates the CFTC as a Leading Fraud Regulator." (<https://www.lockelord.com/newsandevents/publications/2018/03/cftc-leading-fraud-regulator>)

### Consumer Finance Goes Digital

West Palm Beach's **Brendan Herbert**, along with Casey and John, co-authored an article for South Florida Legal Guide examining some of the technological changes expected in the consumer finance industry as the traditional model will necessarily and radically evolve. The trio provides insight on online lending, cryptocurrencies and blockchain of title. For more information, read "From Dollars to Data: Consumer Finance Goes Digital." (<http://sflegalguide.com/blog/from-dollars-to-data-consumer-finance-goes-digital.html>)

### Complex Contracts in the Blockchain Era

Chicago's **Christopher Barth** authored an article for CPO Magazine examining legal concerns with blockchain contracts as the technology continues to experience explosive growth across various industries such as insurance, food production, diamonds and other precious minerals, transportation, taxes, real estate, and banking. He notes that contract disputes will take on an entirely new set of challenges and complexities in the blockchain era. For more information, read "Lurking Pitfalls for the Unwary in the Blockchain Contract Era." (<https://www.cpomagazine.com/2018/04/26/lurking-pitfalls-for-unwary-in-blockchain-contract-era/>)

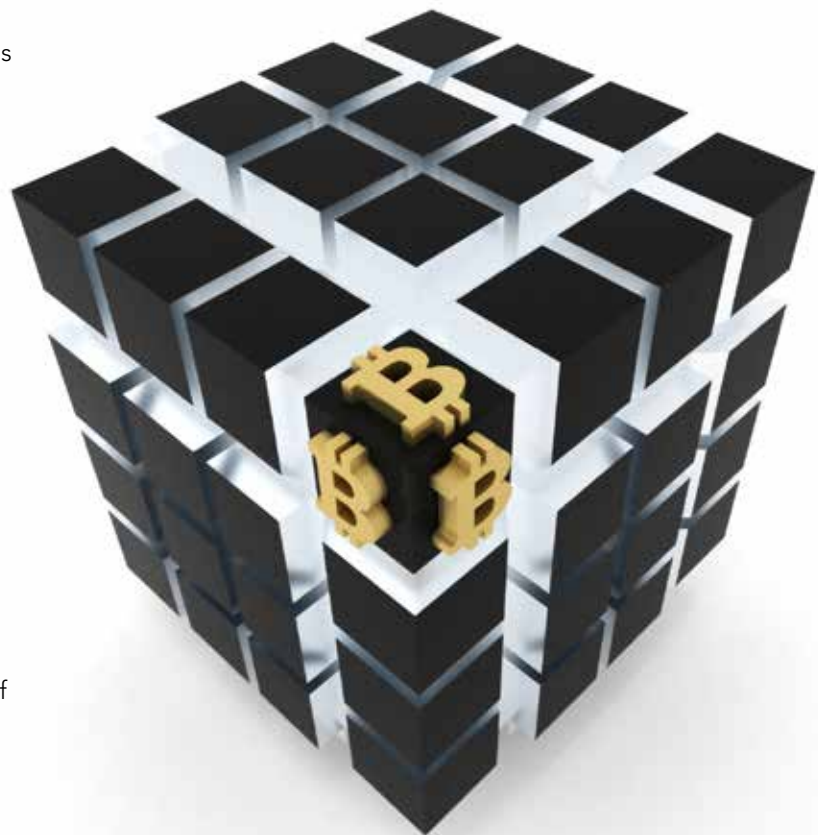
### Crypto Copycats Beware: Fair Use of FinTech

New York's John Viskocil and **Joseph Farco** authored an article examining the impact of *Oracle America, Inc. v. Google LLC* across the technology industry, including in FinTech, where emergent financial platforms often have a relationship with the open-source community. In short, the authors note that "code that was originally developed via open-source methods may not be shielded from future copyright infringement claims by the fair use doctrine." For more information, read "Crypto Copycats Beware: Fair Use of Financial Technology in Wake of *Oracle v. Google*." (<https://www.lockelord.com/newsandevents/publications/2018/05/crypto-copycats-beware>)

### China Banishes ICOs to Beyond Its Borders

Mike, Bill, Casey and John authored an additional article when China, late last fall, issued the harshest denouncement of cryptocurrencies and other decentralized ledger technologies outlawing all ICOs. The move exceeded expectations in the industry, and the authors noted that while the global digital currency trade was negatively impacted, capital raisers who have recently relied on ICOs for fundraising are undoubtedly the hardest hit. For more information, read "The Great Crypto-Wall of China – China Banishes Initial Coin Offerings to Beyond Its Borders While Trapping Already-Raised Capital Within." (<https://www.lockelord.com/newsandevents/publications/2017/09/the-great-crypto-wall>)

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