

**Samantha Akwei**  
**Diversity and Pipeline Programs Director, Bar Association of San Francisco**

*Meet the Justice & Diversity Center's New Diversity Director - June 19, 2018*

Please join us in welcoming Samantha Akwei as our new Diversity and Pipeline Programs Director.

In this role, Samantha oversees JDC's educational pipeline programs, including the School-to-College program, Law Academy, and the Bay Area Minority Law Student Scholarship program.

She is excited about contributing to JDC's legacy of advocating for equitable resources, making a difference in communities that need it most and creating visibility and just opportunities for women and people of color. You can meet Samantha at one of our many upcoming summer receptions.

Samantha is a public servant leader who is passionate about leadership development and social justice. Her first job serving at a food pantry at the age of ten became the catalyst to making service her life's purpose. Her experience as an AmeriCorps tutor, workforce development coach to formerly incarcerated, environmental organizer and digital inclusion instructor has prepared her to lead and deepen how JDC remains relevant and progressive in addressing diverse issues to diverse communities.

Samantha sees diversity as less of a field to study but a practice to embody as our world becomes increasingly multicultural and globally disconnected. She is a proud product of immigrant parents and public school that led her to earn a BA in English from Spelman College and MPA from San Francisco State University.

Her hobbies include volunteering, exercising and writing and performing her poetry. Welcome, Samantha!

Learn more about JDC's diversity educational programs and initiatives by visiting [www.sfbar.org/diversity](http://www.sfbar.org/diversity)

**Connie Brenton**

**Chief of Staff, NetApp; Founder of the Community of Legal Interns and CLOC**

There is a paradigm shift happening in the legal industry and my ideas and passion for cutting edge transformation transcend across the industry and entire legal ecosystem. By leading the transformation in a new role in the industry that brings together business and legal, I am able to create efficiencies across organizations and work in a completely different manner.

As the trusted advisor to the general counsel, I guide a global team in creating a wide variety of tools, programs, policies, and processes, including eBilling, matter management, operational dashboards, legal spend management, vendor management, and contract management. My position enables me to utilize previously unheard of cross functional teams including inside / outside counsel, 3rd party providers, managed service providers and technology to exceed goals.

I am the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporate Legal Operations Consortium (CLOC). I have the honor of being named to the 100 women of influence in Silicon Valley in 2014 and a top ten deputy general counsel in California in 2012. In June 2015, I was also recognized as LegalTech's Law Department Operations Manager of the Year.

## **Jan Kang**

### **Acting General Counsel, Makani; Founder, Women's General Counsel Network**

*“As a former member of the Asian Pacific Fund Advisory Council, I've had a front row seat in seeing how the Fund operates and the value it brings to a community that many don't recognize as being underserved. The Asian Pacific Fund sees that need, and I am honored to now serve on the Board and work with its amazing staff and other Board members to help many more members of the Asian community.”*

Jan Kang most recently served as the Chief Legal Officer of Chronicle LLC until its merge back to Google Cloud. Chronicle was one of the independent companies within Alphabet, dedicated to helping companies find and stop cyberattacks.

Over 25 years in the legal field, Jan Kang has held positions in organizations focused on revolutionizing the industries and being on the cutting edge of fighting cybercrime. During her tenure at X, the moonshot factory, Jan served as General Counsel for a stealth project that graduated to become Chronicle. She's also served as General Counsel for a number of companies including Bromium, AOptix Technologies, Inc., Cupertino Electric, Inc. (where she also served on the Board of Directors), Prism Solutions, MyTeam and Asera, a Vinod Khosla-founded company, and associate general counsel at Lam Research Corporation. Jan worked overseas in Seoul as a foreign legal consultant for the law firm of Shin and Kim and started her career with Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton in Los Angeles, California. Her broad expertise includes corporate governance, contracts, litigation, financing, labor and employment law, mergers and acquisitions and intellectual property.

Jan is also the moving force of the Women's General Counsel Network (WGCN). Founded in 2009, WGCN is comprised of some of the most influential, powerful female general counsel and heads of legal departments across the Nation. WGCN's impressive membership is over 600 members strong and is still growing. Jan also serves on the Board of Directors for the Asian Pacific Fund and is a member of Hipower, the Council of Korean Americans and the Bay Area Asian American General Counsel. In 2014, Jan was the winner of the 2014 Corporate Counsel Awards (Community Champion Category) by the *San Francisco Business Times* and *Silicon Valley Business Journal*. She was named as one of the Top 100 Women of Influence in Silicon Valley by the *Business Journal* and one of *The Recorder's* 50 Women Leaders in Tech Law. Jan was also chosen as Legal Professional of the Year by the Korean American Bar Association of Northern California.

**Jacquie Katzel**  
**Senior Director, Corporate Legal and Assistant Company Secretary**

**Jacquie Katzel** has been the Senior Director, Corporate Legal, Associate General Counsel and Assistant Company Secretary for PayPal, based in San Jose, CA, since September 2019. In this role, Jacquie manages corporate legal matters such as SEC reporting and disclosure and corporate securities filings, supports PayPal's public company board of directors and its committees, and collaborates with PayPal's global entity management team.

Prior to joining PayPal, Jacquie was the Vice President, General Counsel-Governance, Securities and Finance at Resideo Technologies, Inc., a spin-off from Honeywell International Inc. Jacquie spent 12 years with Honeywell as Assistant General Counsel - Governance, Securities and Finance before joining Resideo in October 2018.

At Resideo, Jacquie helped the newly-independent company build its legal and corporate governance infrastructure, including a framework to support the company's board of directors, policies and processes to comply with federal and state securities laws and training for employees on public company rules, requirements and obligations.

Prior to joining Honeywell, Jacquie was a Corporate Associate with Willkie Farr & Gallagher in New York City where she represented public and private companies in corporate finance, private equity and securities. Jacquie received her B.A. in Government from Harvard College and her J.D. from Harvard Law School.

Jacquie is also active in initiatives to increase diversity in the legal industry. While at Honeywell, she was a member of the initial class of Fellows of the Leadership Council for Legal Diversity, where she led the creation of the Fellows Alumni program.

**John W. Kuo**

**Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, Varian Medical**

John W. Kuo was named Corporate Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary for Varian Medical Systems in 2005. He joined the company as Associate General Counsel in 2003, focusing in the areas of securities, corporate governance and M&A. Today, his management responsibilities include the company's Legal, Trade Compliance, Environmental Affairs and Government Affairs functions. Kuo is also the secretary to the company's Board of Directors.

Prior to joining Varian, Kuo held senior legal positions at several companies including Broadvision, 3Com Corporation and Acer America. He was also previously with the law firms of Gray Cary Ware & Freidenrich (now, DLA Piper) and Fulbright & Jaworski. Kuo graduated from Cornell University in 1985 and earned his law degree from Boalt Hall, UC Berkeley in 1988. He has been admitted to the State Bars of California and Texas.

He also serves on the Law Cabinet of the United Way, Silicon Valley, and on the Board of the Boalt Hall Alumni Association.

**Elizabeth O’Callahan**  
**Vice President, Corporate Legal and Chief Privacy Officer, NetApp**

Elizabeth O’Callahan is Vice President, Corporate Legal and Chief Privacy Officer at NetApp, a Fortune 500 technology company. She is responsible for advising the NetApp board and management and overseeing all legal matters related to corporate and securities, M&A, intellectual property, data privacy, corporate compliance, executive compensation, and employment. O’Callahan has been recognized at NetApp and in the legal community for her enterprise mindset, achievement of outstanding results in complex litigation and disputes, relentless execution in pursuit of corporate objectives, commitment to diversity and allyship, and effective use of technology in the provision of legal services. Before joining NetApp, O’Callahan served in senior corporate counsel roles, and began her legal career in private practice in Silicon Valley specializing in corporate law and business litigation. She is the recipient of other professional awards including *Corporate Counsel* Women of Power and Influence in Law, *The Irish Voice* Irish Legal 100, *The Silicon Valley Business Journal* Women of Influence, *The Recorder* Women Leaders in Tech Law, *Inside Counsel* Poised for Prominence, and the YWCA Tribute to Women & Industry Award. O’Callahan lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with her husband and son.

**Jessica Perry**  
**Managing Partner, Orrick**

Jessica R. Perry, Managing Partner, Practice and Sector Alignment, is a member of Orrick's senior leadership team. She also leads Orrick's Litigation practices worldwide. As an employment litigator, she represents tech, retail and financial industry leaders in their most significant class, collective, representative and multi-plaintiff actions.

Jessica defends employers from discrimination and harassment claims on the basis of gender, race, religion, disability, age and other protected categories. She recently defeated class certification in cases alleging discrimination against women in technical roles for Microsoft and Twitter, earning her The American Lawyer's "Litigator of the Week" award. She also won a complete defense verdict for Kleiner Perkins in the highly publicized gender discrimination and retaliation case Pao v. Kleiner Perkins, which the Daily Journal named the year's 'Top Verdict.' Her trial victories also include winning defense judgments in cases involving claims of religious discrimination, retaliation and wrongful termination. Jessica also specializes in pay equity matters, including in designing analyses and advising on compliance and risk mitigation. Clients interviewed by Chambers note, "She's very thorough and knows the details and procedure, without allowing anything to fall through the cracks."

Jessica has a winning record in beating back class certification in high stakes wage-and-hour actions in federal and state court, including those brought under the Private Attorney General Act. Having led over 150 high-stakes wage-and-hour class action matters, Jessica has broad experience on virtually every theory of relief. She also offers strategic guidance to help businesses avoid wage-and-hour litigation, particularly companies in the gig economy industry which can be significantly impacted by such matters.

In addition to litigation and counseling, Jessica has successfully guided clients through investigations and audits by the Department of Labor, California Division of Labor Standards Enforcement and California Employment Development Department, and helped develop compensation policies and measures to reduce potential exposure.

Jessica is also an expert in generational workplace issues and frequently speaks on employment engagement in a multi-generational workforce.

**Phuong Phillips**  
**Chief Legal Officer, Zynga**

Phuong Phillips is Chief Legal Officer for Zynga, overseeing all legal affairs and government relations for the company.

Prior to joining Zynga, Phillips served as Associate General Counsel for Tesla, Inc., where she managed the post-acquisition integrations of SolarCity Corp. and Grohmann Engineering, as well as served as lead mergers and acquisitions attorney for the company. Before that, Phillips spent more than six years at SolarCity, a multi-billion dollar clean energy company. As SolarCity's Vice President, Deputy General Counsel and Head of Corporate and Securities, Phillips advised on matters including M&A, board and corporate governance, securities offerings and compliance, SEC reporting and internal policies. Phillips also served as the lead attorney for SolarCity during its 2016 acquisition by Tesla.

Before joining SolarCity, Phillips spent more than seven years as a Corporate Attorney at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, where she represented a wide range of technology and emerging growth companies on corporate governance, public reporting, securities laws, venture and private equity financing, M&A and IPOs.

Phillips also currently serves as the Director of Operations for the Straubel Foundation, a charitable organization focused on global sustainability, education and science. In 2014, she received the Clean Energy Education & Empowerment (C3E) Initiative Law & Finance Award from the Department of Energy and MIT, recognizing her nationally as a top lawyer advancing innovative clean energy financing solutions. In 2015, the Silicon Valley Business Journal also honored Phillips with a Women of Influence Award.

Phillips received her bachelor's degree in Communication Studies with a specialization in Business Administration from the University of California, Los Angeles, and her J.D. from UCLA School of Law.



**John Pierre**  
**Chancellor, Southern University Law Center**

John Kenneth Pierre was reared in Loreauville, LA a small town in Iberia Parish. Chancellor Pierre graduated from Loreauville High School and joined the U.S. Army ROTC program while attending Southern University. He received a Bachelor's degree in Accounting in 1980 from Southern, a master's degree in tax accounting from Texas Tech University in 1982, and a Juris Doctor degree from Southern Methodist University School of Law in 1985. After graduating from law school, he served four years as a U.S. Army JAG officer.

In 2016, he was appointed Chancellor of the Southern University Law Center after being on the law faculty since 1990, Vice Chancellor since 2006 and serving as interim chancellor for one year.

Chancellor Pierre has previous teaching experience as a visiting and adjunct professor at California State University, Southern Methodist University School of Law, Loyola University Law School, Southern University College of Business, Saint Leo's College, Webster University, Louisiana State University, and Baton Rouge Community College.

He has published numerous articles on tax law, sales and contracts, real estate and commercial law, ranging from magazine features to legal journals and law review articles. He is a member of numerous state and national organizations, including the Louisiana State Bar Association and the Texas Bar Association.

John Pierre has been involved in landmark legal cases in his career such as Davis versus East Baton Rouge Parish School System, the school desegregation lawsuit in East Baton Rouge parish and McWaters versus FEMA, the first lawsuit filed against FEMA after Hurricane Katrina, which secured housing benefits for individuals displaced by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. He has helped African American farmer's secure financial benefits against the U.S. Department of Agricultural in the landmark Black Farmers class action lawsuit.

Chancellor Pierre is married to Mrs. Antoinette Pierre, and the father of two, Toussaint and Stanley. He is a member of St. Paul Catholic Church under the leadership of Father Richard Andrus and he sings in the male chorus.

**Rukayatu “Ruky” Tijani**  
**Founder, Creator, and Chief Esquire Officer of Firm for the Culture**

Drawing on her extensive experience as an intellectual property attorney in the Silicon Valley office of the top litigation firm in the Country, Ruky provides extensive, detail-oriented and comprehensive trademark education, strategy, and application services to a host of social entrepreneurs and innovative founders at accessible flat-fee prices.

As a Social Entrepreneur herself, Ruky knows what it’s like to seek social change while learning to protect a business’s assets. Ruky is the Founder and Creator of the First Generation Purpose Project ("FGPP"), an initiative designed to help First Generation Professionals and Entrepreneurs navigate life and career by utilizing the grit and tenacity that is already on the inside of them.

As the Founder of the FGPP, Ruky has provided workshops to students, young professionals, and creatives at New York University School of Law, Harvard Law School, Yale Law School, University of Notre Dame School of Law, and Berkeley Law School. Her workshops have been praised as candid, insightful, empowering, and practical. She has been recognized as a California Change Lawyer for Legal Diversity, been featured in XONecole and Above the Law, and taken part in several podcast interviews, including the Happy Lawyers Project and the First-Gen Lounge.

Ruky is a proud graduate of UC Berkeley School of Law, an alum of two nationally ranked top law firms, a member of the California and New York State Bars, a fearless advocate for diversity, a Nigerian food lover, a sister, and a friend.

Combining Ruky’s entrepreneurial experience and network, intellectual prowess, and passion for social change, Firm for the Culture seeks to be your go-to firm as you work to protect your brand.