



# Magna Stella: Awards

Thursday, November 18, 2021

Omni Barton Creek Resort & Spa Austin, Texas



## The Power of the Forum

A LEGAL BEST-PRACTICES COMMUNITY



THE 16TH ANNUAL

# Magna Stella: Awards

In 2006, the Forum initiated the Magna Stella Awards program to recognize in-house excellence in Texas corporations, organizations and government agencies. Requests for nominations are advertised statewide each spring, and any in-house leader may be nominated.

The name "Magna Stella" means great or magnificent star. Stella winners are shining examples of the type of leadership the Forum strives to exemplify in its membership. This year's winners are in-house leaders and legal departments who have distinguished themselves in eight categories.





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Photo Backdrop



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## **Major Transaction**



## **Dawud Crooms**

Associate General Counsel, 7-Eleven

Dawud Crooms serves the Associate General Counsel for 7-Eleven, Inc. In this role, he leads the legal team responsible for all matters relating to the company's mergers and acquisitions, distribution, logistics, R&D and digital, delivery and IT transactions. Dawud also leads the legal support of 7-Ventures, 7-Eleven's corporate venture capital fund, where he oversees all legal activities, including structuring and negotiating new investments and strategic transactions.

Dawud received his B.S. in Computer Science with honors from Morehouse College and J.D. with honors from the University of Michigan School of Law. Before joining 7-Eleven, Dawud practiced law with Haynes and Boone, LLP where he advised companies in a wide range of industries in their mergers and acquisitions, venture capital, private equity and capital markets transactions and provided counsel to corporate management and boards of directors on corporate governance, fiduciary duties and financial disclosures. Prior to pursuing an education in law, Dawud was a software developer for a global investment bank, eventually transitioning to investment bank operations as a derivatives risk analyst.

Dawud has been recognized by the Texas Super Lawyers publication as a "Rising Star", the Dallas Business Journal as a "Minority Business Leader" and "North Texas business leaders you need to know" and was a finalist for the 2020 DFW Corporate Counsel Award for M&A Deal of the Year. He is a dedicated father of four and enjoys spending his time coaching his children and mentoring and inspiring the next generation of community and business leaders. Most recently, he has served as the President of the Morehouse College DFW Alumni Association and a board member of the Power to Give Foundation.

## **Major Litigation**



Robert F. Bell

Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary, Intercontinental Terminals Company LLC

Robert Bell serves as Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary for Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC), a leading petrochemical terminal services company along the Gulf Coast and part of a global group of companies owned by Mitsui & Co. As General Counsel, Mr. Bell is a member of the Executive Leadership Team and manages ITC's legal affairs, including litigation and dispute resolution, commercial negotiations, and compliance and regulatory matters.

Prior to joining ITC, Mr. Bell served as Assistant General Counsel for Cobalt International Energy, Inc. where he was responsible for securities, mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance and commercial matters. He also led the company through the Chapter 11 liquidation process as well as overseeing many post-plan confirmation matters including the resolution of complex securities litigation.

Before joining Cobalt, Robert served as Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary for Conn's, Inc., the specialty retailer, where he was responsible for the management of all legal, governance, compliance, and regulatory affairs of the company. Robert began his in-house career at KBR, Inc.

Robert began his legal career in private practice at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP and at Porter Hedges LLP. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Government from the University of Texas and a juris doctorate from the University of Houston Law Center where he graduated magna cum laude.

Robert lives in Houston with his wife and three kids.

## Senior Managing Counsel Small Legal Department



Farah Bhayani

Vice President, Legal, G6 Hospitality LLC

Farah Bhayani is the Vice President of Legal & Compliance at G6 Hospitality LLC, where she is responsible for leading all commercial transactions, real estate, corporate financing, compliance, and franchise matters. Farah is a dynamic and collaborative leader with strong interpersonal skills who lends guidance and expertise in all areas, including as a valued member of the ESG Taskforce, Enterprise Risk Management Committee and Franchise Review Committee. Her approach focuses on the big picture, considering both business needs and the legal landscape when providing guidance.

Further, Farah created and leads the company's compliance program, which has resulted in improved culture, increased employee engagement and better protection of the brand. In addition, she managed three high value refinancing transactions, closed over 400 asset sales worth a combined \$1B+, and played an integral role in the acquisition of the Motel 6 and Studio 6 brands by a private equity group. Farah also leads the Franchise Administration team which has played a strategic role in company initiatives that have strengthened the brand and resulted in significant company growth.

Most recently, as part of the Crisis Incident Response Team, Farah helped the company navigate numerous operational issues during the COVID-19 global pandemic. She spearheaded a partnership with the State of California to support two critical programs instituted to provide shelter for Californians experiencing homelessness. Specifically, Farah partnered with local municipalities for the temporary use and eventual sale of hotels to be used as permanent housing for the state's most vulnerable population.

Prior to G6 Farah served as legal counsel at Novation, LLC (now known as Vizient) and Amdocs, Inc. She earned a J.D. from Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law, as well as a B.B.A. in Real Estate Finance from Southern Methodist University Cox School of Business. Farah enjoys spending time with family and friends, supporting new and local restaurants and attending community events.

## Senior Managing Counsel Large Legal Department



## **Charlie San Miguel**

Assistant General Counsel, Enterprise Products Partners L.P.

Charlie San Miguel is Vice President of Legal of Enterprise Products and General Counsel of Texas Monthly.

As Vice President of Legal, Charlie manages commercial and transactional legal matters for Enterprise Products, one of the largest publicly traded energy partnerships and a leading North American provider of midstream energy services. In his seven years with Enterprise, Charlie has advised on mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, commercial agreements and other transactions critical to growing Enterprise's business, with an aggregate value in excess of \$10 billion. Charlie serves as Enterprise's key counsel to its marine business and IT groups, and manages the company's bankruptcy and intellectual property matters. He is a member of the company's Cybersecurity Management Committee and Cybersecurity Steering Committee.

Charlie also serves as General Counsel to Texas Monthly, an award-winning magazine covering Texas politics, music, art, travel and culture. Charlie served as lead internal deal counsel for Enterprise when an affiliate of Enterprise Products Holdings LLC acquired Texas Monthly from Houston private equity firm Genesis Park in 2019. He has served as General Counsel since the acquisition, advising on all legal matters for the company.

Outside of his in-house counsel roles at Enterprise and Texas Monthly, Charlie is an accomplished musician, playing bass guitar for a blues-rock band, The Drift, and drums for Nick Gaitan and many others, in the past opening for many well-known musicians such as B.B. King, Joe King Carrasco, Shinyribs, Jesse Dayton and Kinky Friedman. Charlie was also the drummer for the band Pro Hac Vice, which won the inaugural 2019 Law Rocks Houston battle of the bands event, raising money for local charities and the band's designated charity of choice, Chance for Hope Foundation, whose mission is to provide support services for children with cancer and their families.

Prior to joining Enterprise, Charlie held numerous in-house positions at Direct Energy and Huntsman Corporation, and initially began his practice in the corporate and securities section of Locke Lord. He received his JD, cum laude, from the University of Houston Law Center, and his bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin.

Charlie lives in Houston with his wife, Teresa, and their two children.

## General Counsel Non-Profit/Government



**Tillery Stout** 

Chief Administrative Officer & General Counsel, Lone Star Circle of Care

Tillery Stout is Chief Administrative Officer & General Counsel for Lone Star Circle of Care, a Federally Qualified Health Center providing primary care for all ages, comprehensive obstetrics and gynecological services, mobile mammography, psychiatry and behavioral health, general dentistry, vision, and pharmacy services to nearly 100,000 individuals across Texas. With a mission to provide exceptional and accessible patient-centered healthcare, Lone Star Circle of Care offers patients an affordable health care home regardless of their insurance status. In 2021, Lone Star became the new home of the Texas Mamma Jamma Ride – a bike ride and fundraising event supporting Lone Star's Big Pink Bus and mobile mammography services.

With her legal department, Tillery manages the full spectrum of legal, compliance and risk issues arising from operation of Lone Star's health care facilities. She also oversees Lone Star's human resources, facilities, and communications departments, as well as Lone Star's new development department that produces the Texas Mamma Jamma Ride. Tillery is heavily involved in all strategic initiatives and project development at Lone Star.

Prior to joining Lone Star, Tillery practiced corporate law in the Houston and Austin offices of Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. where she advised clients from a diverse range of industries on finance and investments, real estate, and mergers and acquisitions. Tillery received her Bachelor of Arts from Mercer University in Macon, Georgia, and her Doctor of Jurisprudence from The University of Houston Law Center.

Thanks to her husband Noel and two sons, Tillery is an active (but COVID conscious) traveler, unintentional dinosaur expert, and novice wake surfer and tennis player.

## General Counsel Solo



## **David Rassin**

Vice President, General Counsel, Secretary and Chief Compliance Officer, SAExploration

Mr. Rassin is Vice President, General Counsel, Secretary and Chief Compliance Officer of SAExploration, Inc., a seismic exploration and logistics company with offices and operations all over the world.

Mr. Rassin joined SAE at the start of the pandemic as part of a new management team, working from quarantine to lead the company through a DOJ investigation, SEC investigation, class action lawsuit, derivative lawsuit, Chapter 11 bankruptcy, and a new crisis every day. In his first ten months on the job, Mr. Rassin saw more excitement than an inhouse lawyer should see in ten years.

In addition to leading the Legal Department at SAE, Mr. Rassin is responsible for the Company's Human Resources and IT departments. SAE's Legal Department counsels its clients on matters affecting every continent except Antarctica, and focuses on risk mitigation and rapid assessment of local law.

Prior to joining the Company in April 2020, Mr. Rassin served as Sr. Counsel – International and Director of Ethics and Compliance for Patterson-UTI, a publicly-traded oilfield services company based in Houston. Mr. Rassin served in previous roles as Compliance Counsel for Chicago Bridge & Iron (now McDermott) and as an Anticorruption Attorney for KBR. Mr. Rassin started his legal career at a Houston law firm, focusing primarily on litigation and general commercial practice. Mr. Rassin received his Juris Doctor from Tulane University Law School and his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Calgary.

## General Counsel Small Legal Department



**Matt Zmigrosky** 

Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary, Diamondback Energy, Inc.

Mr. Zmigrosky has served as Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of Diamondback Energy since joining the company in February 2019. Before joining Diamondback, Mr. Zmigrosky was in private practice of law for over 15 years, most recently as a partner in the corporate section at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, LLP where he served as hiring partner for the Dallas office and worked extensively with Diamondback and its subsidiaries. Mr. Zmigrosky holds a BSM in Finance from Tulane University and a JD from Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law.

## General Counsel Large Legal Department



## Rishi Varma

Senior Vice President, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary, Hewlett Packard Enterprise

Rishi Varma serves as Senior Vice President, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary, and oversees Hewlett Packard Enterprise's legal department globally. He and his team handle, among other things, HPE's corporate governance, strategic acquisitions, divestitures and investments, litigation, intellectual property, commercial contracting, sales and supply chain issues, securities law compliance and disclosure, treasury and financing transactions, and certain other corporate transactions and restructurings, bankruptcy, credit and collections matters and employee compensation and retiree benefits. From 2013 – 2017, Rishi served as Deputy General Counsel overseeing HPE's corporate, securities and M&A practice.

Before joining Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Rishi served as general counsel for two different publicly traded companies from 2005 to 2013 – TPC Group, Inc., a petrochemical company, and Trico Marine Services, Inc., a global subsea service provider. During his time at Trico, he also served in additional management roles including chief operating officer and president. Prior to these companies, Rishi served as securities counsel and director of investor relations for EGL, Inc., a publicly traded global freight forwarder (2002 – 2005), and as a business associate in the New York office of Brobeck, Phleger & Harrison, LP (1998 - 2002).

Rishi has always been a strong believer in advancing the communities in which we live. As such, he serves on the National Board of the Tahirih Justice Center, whose mission is to protect immigrant women and girls from domestic violence and abuse, the Board of the Texas Asia Society, whose mission is to create a bridge between Eastern and Western cultures, the audit committee of Memorial Hermann Hospital, and on the Board of the Greater Houston Partnership.

He holds a Juris Doctor degree from the Georgetown University Law Center and also graduated magna cum laude from Georgetown University with a Bachelor of Science in Political Science. Rishi and his wife, Michelle, have three children.

## Pro Bono



## Toyota Motor North America, Inc.

Toyota has been a part of the cultural fabric in the U.S. and North America for more than 60 years and is committed to advancing sustainable, next-generation mobility through our Toyota and Lexus brands. Toyota's legal department, Toyota Legal One (TL1), plays a critical role in supporting the company's business in areas such as global transactions, cybersecurity, privacy, government and regulatory investigations, complex litigation, labor and employment and intellectual property. In serving its clients, TL1 is helping drive Toyota's evolution as a mobility company, which spans autonomous, fuel cell and connected vehicle technologies, robotics, Al and big data.

The TL1 department includes approximately 55 attorneys in North America and is led by Sandra Phillips Rogers, Group Vice President, Chief Legal Officer, General Counsel and Chief Diversity Officer of Toyota Motor North America. Our goal is to provide best-in-class legal services to our clients through our deliverables of Expertise, Efficiency & Solutions.

TL1's pro bono committee leads the organization's efforts to make a difference in the communities where our team members live and work, including providing estate plans for our local first responders and free legal advice to DFW-area veterans. Over this past year, Toyota lawyers and non-lawyers focused their pro bono efforts on a number of social justice initiatives that include:

- Expunction Expo help eligible citizens remove barriers to employment, housing, and education by having arrest records expunged;
- Non-unanimous Jury Verdicts appeal life sentences for those convicted without unanimous jury verdicts in Louisiana;
- Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) research, digest, and analyze state bystandership laws;
- Election Protection Program training and staffing nationwide non-partisan voter assistance hotline;
- · Together We Can bring attorneys together for candid discussions about race and ongoing allyship; and
- Support Various Non-profits provide access to needs and services for those who have disproportionately suffered during the pandemic.

## **Diversity**



## CenterPoint Energy, Inc.

The CenterPoint Energy Legal Department's vision is to engage as strategic partners and counselors to advance business objectives. We are focused on delivering value-adding services in support of CenterPoint Energy's strategy to "Operate Serve Grow" and efforts to lead the nation in delivering energy, service and value, while maintaining a rigorous commitment to the Company's values: Safety, Integrity, Accountability, Initiative, and Respect.

In addition to being responsible for all of CenterPoint Energy's legal matters (corporate, governance, commercial, finance, strategic transactions, litigation, labor-and-employment, land and right-of-way, and ethics and compliance), this team of about 100 lawyers and other professionals is also responsible for the Company's environmental and ESG programs, insurance, enterprise risk management, claims, data privacy, records management, and the Company's corporate response plan.

We endeavor to provide high-quality legal services, but not take ourselves too seriously (and are not above donning a smoking jacket or sumo suit or nearly anything else to help get a point across and train our clients). We strive to be easy – even fun – to work with, and it is a point of pride that our clients appreciate not only our legal acumen, but also our business advice, willingness to collaboratively solve problems, overall judgment, and being good teammates on important matters.

Our department is proud to lead the way in diversity and inclusion. In addition to having one of the most diverse teams at our company, "diversity, development and inclusion" is a key strategic imperative for our department. Our legal department's Diversity & Inclusion working team has undertaken numerous initiatives, including D&I oriented service and pro bono projects, fundraising, book clubs, film screenings, development efforts, and on-going training and discussion opportunities. We also serve as leaders for the Company's broader D&I efforts. Our diversity includes not only many women and people of color, but also veterans and a variety of life experiences.

## About CenterPoint Energy, Inc.

As the only investor-owned electric and gas utility based in Texas, CenterPoint Energy, Inc. (NYSE: CNP) is an energy delivery company with electric transmission and distribution, power generation and natural gas distribution operations that serve more than 7 million metered customers in Arkansas, Indiana, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio, Oklahoma and Texas. As of June 30, 2021, the company owned approximately \$36 billion in assets and also owned 53.7 percent of the common units representing limited partner interests in Enable Midstream Partners, LP, a publicly traded master limited partnership that owns, operates and develops strategically located natural gas and crude oil infrastructure assets. With approximately 9,500 employees, CenterPoint Energy and its predecessor companies have been in business for more than 150 years.



## **Major Transaction**



**Royce Bedward** 

General Counsel & Corporate Secretary,

Mr. Bedward is a General Counsel and business executive with experience in the healthcare, pharmaceutical, and medical device fields, with deep expertise in M&A, securities, litigation, regulatory & compliance matters.

Mr. Bedward is the Senior Vice President, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary of Alcon in Fort Worth, Texas, where he leads a global legal & compliance department and serves as a business executive on the company's Executive Leadership Team and advisor to the Board of Directors. He recently led Alcon's spin-off from Novartis.

Prior to joining Alcon, he was Senior Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary for Hospira, a global leader in generic drugs and medical devices. An advisor to Hospira's CEO and Board, and a member of the Company's Senior Leadership Team, Mr. Bedward was a guiding force for the \$4.2B (sales)/\$17B market cap healthcare company, including its major turnaround. He negotiated Hospira's \$17B acquisition by Pfizer in 2015. Mr. Bedward joined Hospira in 2004, after successfully leading the company's spin-off from Abbott Laboratories.

Upon receiving his JD, Mr. Bedward served as an Associate and then as an equity partner with Jenner & Block, and later served as Senior Counsel, Litigation at Abbott.

He has a B.B.A. from Saint Norbert College, and a JD Magna cum Laude, Order of the Coif from the University of Illinois, where he was Lead Articles Editor for its Law Review.

## **Major Litigation**



## **Justin Mitchell**

Chief Legal Officer, Formerly Seabed Geosolutions B.V., Currently LUKOIL Pan Americas, LLC

Mr. Mitchell is an experienced in-house lawyer having served as General Counsel for three companies (both public and private), and currently serves as Chief Legal Officer for Seabed Geosolutions, a global oilfield services company. He started his legal career as a litigator and has more than 10 years of experience as an attorney, general counsel, and executive across industries including energy, transportation, engineering, and technology. Before practicing law, Mr. Mitchell was a professional mariner serving as an officer on commercial and military vessels, including Captain of an offshore supply vessel. Mr. Mitchell provides solutions-based legal advice in managing complex litigation as well as advising on contracts, M&A, joint ventures, securities, and financial transactions. He is also experienced in leading corporate governance initiatives and managing intellectual property, compliance, and enterprise risk management / insurance programs.

Mr. Mitchell holds a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from Vanderbilt University; a Juris Doctor in Common Law and Graduate Diploma in Civil Law from the Louisiana State University Law Center; and a Bachelor of Science (with honors) as a Kings Point Scholar of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. He also completed graduate business coursework in accounting-based valuation and financial statement analysis at Rice University's Jones Graduate School of Business. In 2015, the Maritime Law Association named Mr. Mitchell "Proctor in Admiralty."

Mr. Mitchell married Katherine Kincaid Butler (a Rice MBA and Strategy Consultant at Phillips 66) at St. Paul's Knightsbridge in London. They reside in Houston, Texas with their son – James David de Cordova Mitchell. Mr. Mitchell is a dual citizen of the United States and the Kingdom of Spain.

## Senior Managing Counsel Small Legal Department



**Brian Bowen** 

Deputy General Counsel, Assistant Corporate Secretary, & Director of Supply Chain, Callon Petroleum Company

Brian Bowen serves as Deputy General Counsel, Assistant Corporate Secretary, and Director of Supply Chain at Callon Petroleum Company, where he works closely with executive management and all functional groups of the company. Brian is directly responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the Legal Department and its employees. Additionally, Brian manages Callon's Supply Chain Department and its employees, which has significantly reduced Callon's costs in 2020.

Prior to joining Callon, Brian worked as Vice President and General Counsel at Cobalt Ventures LLC, and prior to that as Senior Legal Counsel at Marathon Oil Company and CARBO Ceramics Inc. At Marathon, Brian developed the regulatory compliance legal group and handled a wide array of legal issues, including royalty matters and the negotiations of portfolio asset divestitures. At CARBO, Brian was responsible for overseeing a wide range of legal matters associated with domestic and international operations and served as chief counsel for CARBO's largest domestic subsidiary. He practiced law in the Houston office of Locke Lord LLP from 2006 until joining CARBO in 2010. Brian holds a bachelor's degree in Secondary Education (Mathematics and Spanish) from Kansas State University and a juris doctorate degree from the University of Texas School of Law.

## Senior Managing Counsel Large Legal Department



## **Christopher Stidvent**

Vice President for Commercial Litigation, NTT DATA Services, LLC

Christopher T. Stidvent is the Vice President for Commercial Litigation at NTT DATA Services, LLC, where he manages the company's global commercial litigation function. Prior to joining NTT DATA, Chris spent more than ten years as a Legal Director for Litigation at Dell Technologies. In these roles, Chris has managed all types of complex commercial and intellectual property litigation matters. He also has served as a client representative at more than 40 mediations and received his Mediator Training Certificate from the Dispute Resolution Center in Austin, Texas, in 2014.

Chris graduated with a JD and MA degree from Duke University School of Law in 1999 and *summa cum laude* from Texas A&M University with his undergraduate degree in English and Philosophy in 1996. He worked as Senior Counsel for Enforcement at the Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington DC, and at Baker Botts as an associate in the litigation department before joining Dell in 2006. Chris also clerked for the Honorable A. Joe Fish, U.S. District Court Judge for the Northern District of Texas, from 1999 to 2000.

Chris has worked pro bono to represent several refugees in their applications for asylum. Chris received the Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Award from American Gateways in May 2013, and the Corporate Counsel Pro Bono Award from the Texas Access to Justice Commission in June 2014.

Chris and his wife live in Austin with their four children.

## General Counsel Solo



## Jeffrey E. Lewis

General Counsel, Chief Compliance Officer, & Corporate Secretary, Formerly Pinnacle Propane, LLC, Alliant Gas, LLC, Currently Sinclair Broadcast Group

Jeff Lewis is General Counsel, Chief Compliance Officer, and Corporate Secretary of Pinnacle Propane, LLC; Alliant Gas, LLC; and Alliant Arizona Propane, LLC, together a leading supplier and distributor of propane gas (LPG) in the U.S. and part of a global group of LPG companies owned by the Dutch company SHV Energy, the largest global dedicated LPG distributor.

Jeff manages all areas of Pinnacle's legal, compliance, and risk matters, including M&A activity, regulatory matters, commercial negotiations, labor-issues, internal investigations, litigation and resolution of disputes, data protection, privacy, and risk (insurance coverage). Jeff also manages Pinnacle's comprehensive Compliance Program, as well as its Risk (Insurance) Program.

Prior to joining Pinnacle, he held a series of senior legal positions at AT&T, including the Senior Managing Legal Counsel to AT&T's \$22B Consumer Wireline/Internet/TV business unit. And as a Senior Vice President-Compliance, Jeff led a 100+ person organization where his team implemented transformative changes in compliance through the predictive technology, artificial intelligence, cyber security, robotics, and data analytics to prevent data security breaches.

Jeff's legal experience also includes: Partner at Gordon & Glickson, a Chicago-based law firm specializing exclusively in technology transactions; Senior Vice President - International Legal at the Chicago Stock Exchange, where as senior international technology counsel, he negotiated technology agreements with emerging market stock exchanges on 4 continents; Enforcement Attorney with the U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission; and Assistant District Attorney with the Manhattan District Attorney's office in New York.

Jeff holds the following degrees: Southern Illinois University (B.A.); Rutgers University (J.D.); and New York University (LLM in Corporations Law).

Jeff is a certified privacy professional with the International Association of Privacy Professionals. His Board membership includes: Dallas Historical Society; Suicide and Crisis Center of North Texas and Society of St. Vincent DePaul National Foundation.

## General Counsel Small Legal Department



Kevin M. McDonald

Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer & General Counsel, NexTier Oilfield Solutions

Kevin M. McDonald serves as Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer and General Counsel for NexTier Oilfield Solutions. He joined predecessor Keane Group, Inc. as Executive Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary in November 2016.

Prior to joining NexTier, Kevin served in leadership roles at Marathon Oil Corporation from 2012 to 2016, including as Deputy General Counsel of Corporate Legal Services and Government Relations and Deputy General Counsel of Governance, Compliance & Corporate Services. Kevin also practiced as a partner at the international law firm Fulbright & Jaworski LLP (now Norton Rose Fulbright LLP), served as the general counsel and chief compliance officer for an S&P 500 company, Cooper Industries (now Eaton) and held leadership positions at Anadarko Petroleum Corporation and Valero Energy Corporation.

Kevin is involved in charitable and community organizations. He is a member of the Texas A&M 12th Man Foundation Board of Trustees on which he serves as Chair of the Legal & Governance Committee. He also serves on the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Corporate Development Committee and the Board of Directors for Arms of Hope.

Kevin holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Texas A&M University and a Juris Doctor from The University of Texas School of Law.

## General Counsel Large Legal Department



Lanesha T. Minnix

Senior Vice President, Chief Legal Officer & Corporate Secretary, Flowserve Corporation

Lanesha Minnix currently serves as Senior Vice President, Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary at Flowserve Corporation (NYSE: FLS), an S&P 500 manufacturer of engineered and industrial pumps, seals and valves operating in more than 50 countries. As Chief Legal Officer, Ms. Minnix is a member of the Executive Leadership Team and oversees all legal, governance, compliance, and regulatory affairs globally for the company.

Prior to joining Flowserve, Ms. Minnix served as Senior Vice President and General Counsel for BMC Stock Holdings, Inc. (NASDAQ: BMCH), a Fortune 700 provider of diversified residential building products. As General Counsel, she was responsible for all legal matters of the company as well as the risk management function.

Prior to joining BMC, Ms. Minnix was Vice President, Deputy General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer for ABM Industries Incorporated (NYSE: ABM), a Fortune 500 facility solutions company with 100,000 employees worldwide. Before her tenure with ABM, Ms. Minnix held significant legal leadership roles at Royal Dutch Shell/Shell Oil Company including roles in the downstream business and an expat role based in Qatar. Ms. Minnix began her career as a corporate associate at the law firm of K&L Gates and then as Corporate Counsel for Sprint Corporation.

Ms. Minnix earned her Juris Doctor and Master of Business Administration from the University of Tulsa and Bachelor of Science from St. Louis University. She serves on the Board of Directors for Minority Corporate Counsel Association and previously served on the Board of Trustees and for the National Urban League and the Girls Scouts of San Jacinto Council in Houston. She is a member of the Texas and Pennsylvania Bars.

## Pro Bono



A. Lynne Puckett

SVP and General Counsel, Celanese Corporation

A. Lynne Puckett joined Celanese Corporation in February 2019 as Senior Vice President and General Counsel. Prior to Celanese, Lynne was Senior Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary of Colfax Corporation since 2010. Prior to Colfax, she was a Partner with the law firm of Hogan Lovells. Her experience includes a broad range of corporate and transactional matters, including mergers and acquisitions, venture capital financings, debt and equity offerings, and general corporate and securities law matters. Before entering the practice of law, Lynne worked for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and a major U.S. defense contractor. Lynne holds a J.D. from the University of Maryland School of Law and a B.S. degree from James Madison University.

Under Lynne's leadership, Celanese's legal department has engaged in numerous pro bono projects. In the past 12 months, Celanese performed more than 300 hours of community service, with 98% team participation. Celanese has a multi-pronged pro bono commitment to Paul Quinn College, a historically black college, including a corporate lecture series with students serving as corporate interns. Lynne's team also presented an interactive "message mapping" activity, with students reporting out from roundtables and then receiving constructive critiques on their business communication techniques. In addition, Celanese worked with Weil to provide legal counsel on projects like Paul Quinn's partnership with KIPP Public Charter Schools to provide K-12 education on the university's campus. Celanese also worked with Sidley Austin to lead veterans intake clinics. The Celanese legal and business teams have worked together providing more than 160 cumulative hours with Habitat for Humanity. Most recently, Lynne's team, with the assistance of their children, created more than 500 snack bags for homeless children served by Vogel Alcove. Lynne and her team have proven their compassion and dedication to actively seek out ways to give back to the community and amplify the overall impact of those pro bono activities.

## Save the Date

THE 17TH ANNUAL

Magna Stella: Awards

Thursday, November 3, 2022

Fairmont Austin | Austin, Texas



## THANK YOU TO OUR FORUM STAFF

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## DAVID RASSIN VICE PRESIDENT

VP, GC, Secretary, and Chief Compliance Officer | SAExploration

### BARCLAY NICHOLSON SECRETARY

Partner | Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP

#### ELIZABETH MATTHEWS IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Deputy Managing Director, EVP and General Counsel | Total American Services

## Become a Member

### MEMBER BENEFITS

### **BEST PRACTICES**

- Statewide Virtual CLE Programs In consultation with our Virtual Programming Committee, Forum Gold Underwriters
  host Virtual CLE Programs on current topics relevant to our members who receive CLE credits while staying connected to
  our legal community. Members have access to our private library of all recorded CLE programs and materials through our
  password protected web page to view for CLE credit at their convenience.
- Chapter Quarterly Program Events In a typical year, four Quarterly Program Events are held in-person in each chapter city. These Quarterly Programs address crucial best practice issues and offer insight into current topics facing the in-house legal community.
- Annual Conference Our two-day Annual Conference, typically held in Austin or San Antonio in November, is designed
  to encourage conversation and inspire professional advancement through a series of short, dynamic presentations from
  industry leaders and networking events. Each year, the topic of the Conference centers around leadership with over 250
  members in attendance. The Annual Conference fee is included in the yearly membership dues.

### NETWORKING

- GC Round Table Luncheons Typically, three GC Round Table Luncheons are held in-person in our Dallas-Fort Worth
  and Houston chapter cities where members engage in advanced dialogue with each other on current legal topics in an
  informal social setting.
- After Hour Social Events Throughout the year, the Forum hosts sponsored in-person chapter social events for our members. These events are private networking get-togethers with 20-40 in attendance and are held at restaurants, bars/ lounges, private homes, or other venues in Austin, San Antonio, Dallas, Fort Worth, and Houston.
- Forum Women Events In efforts to empower the women in our legal community, the Forum hosts sponsored in-person chapter events for our women members. These events aim to cultivate lasting relationships as well as develop and empower female leadership.

### **LEADERSHIP**

- Leadership Recognition Each year, the Forum recognizes and celebrates outstanding leaders in our in-house community
  with two award dinners. During our Annual Conference, up to 10 Magna Stella awards are given in various categories to
  recognize excellence and celebrate the success of in-house leadership throughout Texas. In addition, the Dallas Fort Worth
  Chapter annually presents the Dedman Award to a General Counsel with demonstrated commitment to business ethics,
  communication and management practices.
- Member Directory Members have access to a digital membership directory to help maintain and develop connections
  with fellow in-house leadership representing more than half of the Fortune 500 companies headquartered in the state as
  well as prominent companies in each chapter city. This benefit is especially valuable when in-person programming is limited.
- Leadership Institute Annually, members can participate in our six-day Leadership Institute designed by general counsel.
   The Institute provides attendees with a unique leadership and financial management program presented in association with the SMU Cox School of Business. The Institute is discounted for Forum members.

## MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

INDIVIDUAL CORPORATE	\$600
INDIVIDUAL GOV'T/NON-PROFIT	\$300
CORPORATE LEGAL DEPARTMENT General counsel & up to 3 managing counsel. Additional members \$300 each.	\$1200
GOV'T/NON-PROFIT LEGAL DEPARTMENT General counsel & up to 3 managing counsel. Additional members \$225 each.	\$900
CORPORATE MENTORING SPONSOR General counsel & up to 8 managing counsel. Additional members \$300 each.	\$2500

All memberships are valid for the duration of the calendar year (January 1 - December 31)

RECOGNIZING IN-HOUSE

# Leadership & Excellence

### **Texas General Counsel Forum**

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