

# The Diversity Newsletter of Murtha Cullina LLP

## QUAE VIDE



### Welcome to the Twelfth Issue of Quae Vide

January 2014

#### MURTHA CULLINA ELECTS NEW PARTNERS

Murtha Cullina is pleased to announce the election of two new partners and the promotion of one new counsel. Lauren Filiberto Hopwood and Keith S. Varian have been elected to the partnership of Murtha Cullina, and Dena Castricone has been promoted to counsel. These changes were effective January 1, 2014.

"I am pleased to welcome Lauren and Keith as partners," stated Elizabeth J. Stewart, Managing Partner of Murtha Cullina LLP. "Each is well-respected and brings the knowledge and skill to continue, as well as add to, the success of our firm."



Lauren Filiberto Hopwood practices employment-based immigration law with a particular emphasis on the health care sector, including J-1 waivers for foreign medical graduates. Ms. Hopwood prepares both immigrant and nonimmigrant petitions on behalf of foreign workers. Her areas of knowledge include H-1B, L-1, and O-1 nonimmigrant petitions;

PERM labor certification applications, I-140 immigrant petitions, I-485 adjustment of status applications, and national interest waiver petitions. Ms. Hopwood was selected as a Connecticut Super Lawyer Rising Star in the area of Immigration in 2012 and 2013. She earned her B.A. from the University of Vermont, and her J.D. from the University of Connecticut. Ms. Hopwood resides in the New Haven office.



Keith S. Varian has extensive experience representing owners, investors and developers of commercial real estate in transactions relating to the development, financing, leasing, acquisition, and management of nearly all types of commercial real estate, including office, industrial, retail and apartments. Mr. Varian's finance practice includes representing

banks and other lending institutions as well as borrowers

in real estate-based financings and other forms of asset-based lending. In 2013, he was selected by the Connecticut Law Tribune as one of Connecticut's "New Leaders in the Law." Mr. Varian earned his B.A. from Providence College, and his J.D. from Case Western Reserve University. He resides in the Stamford office.

Dena M. Castricone is a member of the Long-Term Care/Health Care Practice Group and is also an experienced litigator. She assists long-term care providers with a wide range of regulatory, compliance, litigation, employment and risk management issues.



Ms. Castricone has experience in construction, employment and routine and complex business litigation. In 2013, she was selected by the Connecticut Law Tribune as one of Connecticut's "New Leaders in the Law" and as a Rising Star by Business New Haven. In August 2011, the National LGBT Bar Association recognized her as one of the Best LGBT Lawyers under 40. Ms. Castricone earned her B.S. and J.D. from Roger Williams University. She resides in the New Haven office.

#### SOUTH ASIAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT ("SABAC") ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

On Thursday, December 5, 2013, the South Asian Bar Association of Connecticut ("SABAC") held their Seventh Annual Awards Dinner. Murtha Cullina was a gold sponsor of this event. Taruna Garg, an associate of the firm, has served on the SABAC Board since 2010 and was the Chair of the Awards Dinner Committee.

We at Murtha Cullina value all people and recognize that diversity within Murtha Cullina strengthens our firm and enhances the services we provide to our clients. We appreciate that meeting our diversity goals better enables us to participate in the communities where we practice law, work and live, as well as enhancing our overall experience as a member of the larger legal community. To that end, we welcome all people, without regard to race, national origin, color, ethnicity, religion or religious practices, gender, citizenship, marital status, age, mental or physical ability or disability, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.

In Boston:  
617.457.4000

In Hartford:  
860.240.6000

In Madison:  
203.245.9991

In New Haven:  
203.772.7700

In Stamford:  
203.653.5400

In Woburn:  
781.933.5505

The event featured keynote speaker, Mr. Shayana “Shane” Kadidal, a senior managing attorney of the Guantánamo Global Justice Initiative at the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York City. In his keynote address, Mr. Kadidal described his work during his twelve years at the Center, where he handled significant cases arising in the wake of 9/11, including the Center’s challenges to the detention of prisoners at Guantánamo Bay (among them torture victim Mohammed al Qahtani and former CIA ghost detainee Majid Khan), which have twice reached the Supreme Court, and several cases arising out of the post-9/11 domestic immigration sweeps. For his tremendous professional achievements and unwavering dedication to civil rights causes, SABAC presented Mr. Kadidal with its 2013 Distinguished Legal Professional Award.

Other honorees of the evening included Dr. M. Saud Anwar, who was recently elected Mayor of South Windsor. As the first South Asian mayor in Connecticut, Mr. Anwar was presented with the 2013 SABAC Trailblazer Award. Finally, SABAC presented its 2013 Community Service Award to LawyerCorps Connecticut for its innovation and creativity in expanding access to legal services through a unique collaboration of public and private organizations dedicated to closing the “justice gap” throughout Connecticut.

---

#### MURTHA CULLINA ATTORNEYS TAKE LEADERSHIP ROLES IN DIVERSITY INITIATIVES IN 2013

**Burt Cohen** – Chair of Murtha Cullina LLP Diversity Committee; Board member of Lawyers Collaborative for Diversity; Co-chair of CT Bar Association Diversity Committee.

**Tom Vangel** – Board member of Boston Lawyers Group.

**Cherie Phoenix** – Chair of Associates’ Committee of the Lawyers Collaborative for Diversity; George W. Crawford Black Bar Association seated delegate to the CT Bar Association House of Delegates; George W. Crawford Black Bar Association Annual Dinner Committee.

**Taruna Garg** – Director of South Asian Bar Association of Connecticut (“SABAC”) and chair of the Annual Awards Dinner.

**Dena Castricone** – President, The CABO Foundation (scholarship arm of LGBT chamber of commerce); Executive Committee, LGBT Section of the CT Bar Association.

---

Connecticut Member, Lex Mundi A Global Association of Independent Law Firms

#### MURTHA CULLINA ATTORNEYS GETTING INVOLVED

On November 7, **Elizabeth J. Stewart** attended the Lawyers Collaborative for Diversity (“LCD”) Annual Judges of Color Reception.

On November 13, **JoAnne S. DiPersio, Melissa A. Federico, Michael D. Goldfarb, David J. McQuade, Natale A. Messina, Cherie Gabrielle Phoenix, Alfred E. Smith, Jr., and Louis B. Todisco** attended the Connecticut Italian-American Bar Association Annual Awards Dinner.

On November 14, **Stella Szantova Giordano, Sarah Gruber (Summer Associate), Julia Mayer Kosinski, Cherie Gabrielle Phoenix, and Elizabeth J. Stewart** attended the Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary awards celebration. The firm was a gold sponsor of this event.

On December 5, **Graham T. Coates, Burt Cohen, Jennifer A. Corvo, Taruna Garg, Lucas A. Lycksell, Cherie Gabrielle Phoenix, Edward B. Whitemore, and Kristen L. Zaehring** attended the South Asian Bar Association of Connecticut (“SABAC”) Annual Awards Dinner. The firm was a gold sponsor of this event.

---

This newsletter is one of a series of publications by **Murtha Cullina LLP** and should not be construed as legal advice or legal opinion on any specific facts or circumstances. The contents are intended for general information purposes only, and you are urged to consult your own lawyer concerning your own situation and any specific legal questions you may have.

---

#### MEMBERS OF THE DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

|                          |                                   |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Burt Cohen, Chair        | Janemarie W. Murphy               |
| Beverly Anello           | Cherie Gabrielle Phoenix          |
| David P. Friedman        | James F. Radke                    |
| Taruna Garg              | Tiffany A. Tracy                  |
| Audrey M. Gehring        | Elizabeth J. Stewart (ex officio) |
| Olga L. Gordon           | Edward B. Whitemore               |
| Lauren Filiberto Hopwood |                                   |
| David A. Menard          |                                   |
| Eric B. Miller           |                                   |