



Insights: Perspectives

What's Happening in...Atlanta

August 10, 2018

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN... ATLANTA

Five Questions with Kilpatrick Townsend Office Managing Partner Audra Dial

1. How long has the firm had a presence in Atlanta?

The Atlanta office's rich history dates back to 1874, making us the oldest law firm in Atlanta. Through various predecessor firms like Kilpatrick & Cody, we've led the legal industry in diversity and inclusion by hiring women and people of different religious and cultural backgrounds when it was not the norm.

2. Describe the Atlanta office's expertise and client base?

Located in the business capital of the Southeast, the Atlanta office affords the firm the opportunity to serve global Fortune 500 entities, as well as new and emerging companies headquartered in the firm's backyard. Over the years, the Atlanta office has emerged as an East Coast leader in handling innovative technology matters, representing many cutting-edge businesses across all industries, including FinTech. Our services have kept pace with Atlanta's growth through our flourishing corporate (e.g., real estate, tax, technology transactions, mergers and acquisitions, and securities), intellectual property (e.g., patent, copyright, trademark), and litigation practices that routinely rank highly with clients, colleagues, and even competitors throughout the legal and business community.

3. What differentiates Kilpatrick Townsend from other firms in Atlanta?

Innovation — in the clients we represent, the legal matters we undertake, and how we operate. As an office that offers all of our firm's services, we proudly represent some of the country's most innovative trailblazers — including Atlanta-based AT&T Mobility, Novelis, Georgia-Pacific, and IHG, among others — in cutting-edge corporate, intellectual property, and litigation matters, both nationally and internationally. Our collaborative and client-oriented approach allows us to proactively address legal matters, both offensively and defensively, to advance our clients' goals.

4. Any recent growth?

To ensure our clients' success, we routinely seek fresh perspectives and strong legal talent. In the past year, the Atlanta office welcomed attorneys to our Complex Commercial Litigation Team (Associates **Stephanie Bedard** and **Brittany Nash**); Electronics & Software Team (Associate **Will Sparkman** and Patent Agent **David Hawkins**); General Corporate, M&A & Securities Team (Associate **Hannah Loo**); Government Enforcement & Investigations Team (Team Attorney **Nicole Medrozo** and Associate **Aaron Gallardo**); Labor & Employment Team (Team Attorney **Teri Bouchard**); Medical & Mechanical Devices Team (Associate **Melissa Glasgow**); Technology Transactions & Global Data Protection Team (Counsel **Farah Cook** and **Vita Zeltser** and Associate **Maha Khalaj**); and the Trademark & Copyright Team (Counsel **Alison Stimac** and Associates **Erica Chanin**, **Kenesia Cook**, and **Dan Englander**). With these and other staff additions, the Atlanta office not only enhanced its legal and professional services, but also increased our diversity within the office.

5. What key initiatives does the Atlanta office spearhead in the community?

The Atlanta office boasts an impressive history of community outreach through our pro bono and volunteerism activities. In 2017, attorneys in Atlanta completed more than 11,000 hours of pro bono work — valued at \$6 million — while representing clients in domestic violence matters, landlord/tenant disputes, immigration and asylum petitions, and grandparent adoptions, to name a few. Our legacy of pro bono service includes some of the most prominent pro bono cases in the city, such as a groundbreaking transgender asylum case and the Thembi Dlamini human trafficking case.

Our Atlanta volunteerism efforts primarily focus on K-12 education, specifically academic enrichment and skill development, such as reading, writing, communication, and critical thinking. In 2017, we partnered with the Barack & Michele Obama Academy (BAMO), a City of Atlanta public school located in the Peoplestown community of South Atlanta. As a part of our partnership, volunteers from the Atlanta office have helped families create safer and more stable homes through the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation's "Standing with Our Neighbors" program, and we have helped reduce school enrollment turnover and increase school attendance through "Student of the Month" and other recognition programs at BAMO.



ATLANTA OFFICE
ESTABLISHED IN
1874



**ENHANCING
LEGAL & PROFESSIONAL**
services, while also
increasing **DIVERSITY**
within the Atlanta office



**11,000
HOURS**
of pro bono work
VALUED AT
\$6 Million

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Five Questions with Kilpatrick Townsend's Atlanta Office Managing Partner Audra Dial.