

March 2024

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Dear Members and Friends of the Orange County Coalition for Diversity in the Law,

We relay our sincere gratitude for your continued support and involvement in our growing organization. 2023 was another big year for OCCDL. Thanks to you, we significantly expanded and diversified our programming and social outreach, both online and in person. Here are just a few highlights:

- Our Professional Development Committee put on a webinar with **Tips & Tricks for Litigators**, hosted Infinite Global for **On the Record: How to Think About Media Relations**, and held a two-part, in-person **Deposition Workshop** for junior lawyers. Special thanks to Anurita Varma for her hard work on these workshops!
- Social events with our members included our **Member Appreciation Mixer** at Capital Seafood, where we played OCCDL Bingo and mingled with members, law students, and affiliates; our **Summer Associate Mixer** for law students at OCCDL member firms; and enjoying a **Coffee Meet Up** at Coffee Tomo.
- Mark Lezama led a panel discussion with the **Hon. Sunshine Sykes** and the **Hon. André Birotte Jr.** on **Pathways to the Bench and Diversity in the Judiciary**.
- Throughout the year, Kristin Fabella highlighted attorneys from OCCDL member firms with our monthly **Interview Series** for Black History Month, Women's History Month, Pride Month, South Asian Heritage Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, and cultural celebrations like Nowruz and Vaisakhi.
- In October, we hosted our annual **DEI Awards Gala**. Charlene Azema of Knobbe Martens, our Diamond Sponsor, provided opening remarks and described her role in the creation of OCCDL's mission statement. We presented the Spotlight on Excellence Award to Christina Zabat-Fran, General Counsel of Lanvin Group, for her many accomplishments and dedication to the Orange County legal community. We also recognized 20 other attorneys and 10 organizations for their excellence and work advancing diversity. We thank Diana Chao, our event sponsors, our members, and Chapman Law student volunteers for the overwhelming success of this event.

We aim to accomplish even more this year. But we need your continued support to carry on OCCDL's important work. If you haven't already, please contact info@occdl.org to renew your membership.

We'd like to recognize our outgoing Board members Diana Chao, Kristin Fabella, and Crispin Collins for their fantastic service to OCCDL. Thank you—you will be missed. We are delighted to have Anurita Varma and Andrea Levenson join returning Board members Mark Lezama and Mike Olsen.

We are honored to serve as OCCDL's Board for 2024. Thank you for helping us advance diversity in the Orange County legal community and serve as an important resource for the next generation of attorneys. We look forward to another terrific year together!



Mark Lezama
President



Anurita Varma
Vice President



Andrea Levenson
Secretary



Mike Olsen
Treasurer