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# alumni news

## SheppardMullin

WINTER 2021

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### STATS AND FACTS

925

Lawyers Globally

15

Offices in  
5 Countries

10

Practice Groups

26

Industry Teams

35

Blogs  
(including new Energy  
and Trademark blogs)

1,595

Alumni in our network

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

As we begin the new year, rather than reflect upon the challenges of 2020, we choose instead to focus on our attorneys' inspiring pro bono efforts and accomplishments, including those related to the COVID-19 pandemic and racial justice movement.

Dozens of Sheppard Mullin's attorneys volunteered for and participated in "LA Represents" and New York's Small Business Legal Relief Alliance. These initiatives represent two unprecedented pro bono programs involving law firms, bar associations, and community organizations to help small business owners devastated by the pandemic. A large team of our attorneys also provided critical support to produce and distribute 30,000 face shields to frontline healthcare workers in Los Angeles.

On the racial justice front, we could not be more proud of our important work relating to our partnership with Georgetown Law in creating the Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) Project, the first nationwide program dedicated to promoting, teaching and studying "active bystandership" within law enforcement agencies. The ABLE Project is now a signature initiative within Georgetown Law's Innovative Policing Program. The program's goal is to create a police culture of intervention in order to prevent police misconduct and protect officers and the public. Our attorneys have devoted more than 5,000 pro bono hours (at a value of \$3.4 million) to the ABLE project and other racial justice efforts.

We have also committed \$100,000 to, and established partnerships with, two organizations committed to racial and social justice: [The Dream Corps](#), an intersectional and bipartisan nonprofit that brings people together across racial, social and partisan lines to create a future with freedom and dignity for all; and [BMe](#), a non-profit focused on unifying leaders, innovators and champions from aspiring communities.

As a result of our firm's pro bono work, we received the following prestigious awards in 2020:

- The firm received the Thompson Reuters 2020 TrustLaw Impact Award, which recognizes pro bono projects that demonstrate significant impact for a non-profit organization or social enterprise, their community, and beyond. The award is a result of the work of New York partner **Paul Garrity** and associate **Samuel Cohen**, who provided intellectual property advice to improve access to blood during medical procedures and emergencies in Kenya.

- Public Counsel bestowed its 2020 Pro Bono Award to Los Angeles partners **Oliver Theard** and **Candace Matson** and associates **Joshua Demple** and **David Berger** for the successful representation of a family who was the victim of a fraud scheme that threatened their home.
- *The American Lawyer* awarded Silicon Valley special counsel **Tenaya Rodewald** the prestigious Tony Mauro Award for her work on behalf of the First Amendment Coalition. In addition, Tenaya and a team that included partners **James Chadwick** (Palo Alto) and **Karin Vogel** (San Diego) and associates **Matthew Halgren** (San Diego), **Andrea Feathers** (Los Angeles) and **Gianna Segretti** (Palo Alto) achieved an impressive string of wins in state and appellate courts in cases involving access to records of police misconduct and uses of force.

Last August, we announced the appointment of New York litigation partner **Daniel Brown** as the firm's first dedicated Pro Bono Partner. With Dan now focusing exclusively on developing our pro bono program, we will continue to do our part to close the justice gap, using our legal skills in the service of those who are less fortunate.

We hope 2021 brings you and your loved ones great happiness, health and success,



**Guy Halgren**

Chair

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## ALUMNI MOVES AND NOTABLE NEWS

Below are a few recent in-house alumni moves and other notable achievements. Let us know if you've changed jobs so we can feature your move in a future edition.



**Truc Do** is now Associate Justice of the Fourth District Court of Appeal, Division One in San Diego. She was a labor and employment associate in our Los Angeles office from 1997 to 1999. (See article on page 5.)



**Alexandra (Ali) Gross** is now Privacy Counsel at Adobe in San Jose. She was a privacy attorney in our San Diego and Orange County offices from 2019 to 2020.



**Gina Ilardi** is now General Counsel of esports investment company Vindex in New York, its first ever GC. She was an entertainment associate from 2007 to 2014, then partner from 2014 to 2016, in our New York Office.



**Samantha Phillips Jessner** was elected Assistant Presiding Judge for the Los Angeles Superior Court for the 2021-22 term. She has served as the Supervising Judge of the Court's Civil Division since January 1, 2019, and was appointed to the bench in 2007. She was a litigation associate in our Los Angeles office from 1991 to 1994.



**Christopher Neils** is now General Counsel with Murphy Development Company in San Diego. He was a real estate partner, then of counsel, in our San Diego office from 1986 to 2020.



**Howard Norber** is now Associate General Counsel for VillageMD in Chicago. He was a corporate special counsel in our Chicago office from 2019 to 2020.



**Jinsook Ohta** was recently appointed to serve as a Judge in the San Diego County Superior Court. She had been serving as Supervising Deputy Attorney General in the California Attorney General's Office since 2019. Jinsook was a labor and employment associate in our San Diego office from 2003 to 2006.



**Johneth Park** is now General Counsel and Senior Vice President of Doosan in Seoul. He was a corporate partner in our Seoul office from 2015 to 2020.



**Jeff Shieh** is now Senior Vice President, Head of Legal & Business Affairs for Sega of America in Los Angeles. He was a corporate associate in our Los Angeles office from 1999 to 2005.

We regularly post in-house job opportunities from clients and friends of the firm on the Sheppard Mullin alumni site under "Career Opportunities." We welcome in-house job postings from you; please send to [alumni@sheppardmullin.com](mailto:alumni@sheppardmullin.com).

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT INTERVIEW: AMY NORRIS



**Amy Norris**

*Executive Legal Counsel  
Clif Bar*

*Formerly Finance & Bankruptcy Group, 2001-2008  
San Francisco Office*



We are delighted to profile former Sheppard Mullin attorney Amy Norris, now Executive Legal Counsel of Clif Bar in Emeryville, CA.

### Career Path

Amy has always had a passion for environmentalism. Raised in Mill Valley, California, she graduated from the University of California San Diego with a degree in anthropology and minor in environmental conservation.

After graduating, she joined the Peace Corps and resided in West Africa for a year, where she teamed up with community health workers in international development. After her time in the Peace Corps, she contemplated her next step, and law school seemed like the most impactful choice. She attended the University of San Francisco School of Law, receiving her J.D. in 1998.

Her early legal career—while valuable—had less of a focus on the outdoors and well-being of the planet than her past and future work would. First came stints as an associate attorney at Laughlin, Falbo, Levy & Moresi and at Schnader Harrison in San Francisco. She then joined Sheppard Mullin's Finance & Bankruptcy Group, working from the firm's San Francisco office from 2001 to 2008.

By 2008, Amy was expecting her second child and looking for a change of pace. Her interview with Clif Bar helped her realize that she wanted a more advisory role within a company, something different than being a generalist. "I was seen as a partner," Amy said about her first position of Associate General Counsel. "I thought it would be interesting to see the effects of giving advice from start to finish."

### Current Roles and Responsibilities

Even if Amy wasn't in her current role at Clif Bar, she'd likely be one of the organic food and beverage company's customers. The fact that she ended up spending half her legal career at a brand built for people with active lifestyles isn't just happenstance—it was serendipity.

"The focus on the planet and the environment aligned with my own values," Amy recalled about her arrival at Clif Bar, where she was hired as Associate General Counsel in 2008 before getting

promoted to her current position in 2019. In particular, she praised the company's business model centered around sustaining Five Aspirations that start inward and extend outward to the world as a whole: Clif Bar's people, its business, its brands, its community, and the planet.

As Clif Bar's Executive Legal Counsel, she oversees the day-to-day operations of the legal department including budgeting, staffing, managing workflows, and employee and personnel development and management. She also acts as Corporate Secretary for Clif Bar, working with a newly formed Board of Directors. She's part of the company's executive leadership team. In that role, she is the liaison Clif Bar's compliance functions, including food safety, product labeling, marketing and employment compliance, and FCPA. She also oversees risk management.

Clif Bar's in-house team includes three attorneys in addition to Amy, plus a paralegal, a regulatory compliance manager, and two contracts managers, who handle the legal needs of Clif Bar's 1,500 employees. From day one, Amy's job involved not only avoiding the highest level of risk, but also helping facilitate the work of other departments. "It means understanding the business and involves a lot of listening and brainstorming on how to get to an acceptable level of risk," she said. "As a department, we really want to give the decision-making authority to our business partners, so we identify ... opportunities, challenges and risks, then try to provide the perspective that is rooted in the law."

### Commitment to the Environment

The marriage of environmentalism and food continues as Clif Bar's manifests itself in projects outside of the Bay Area, such as at the award-winning sustainable bakeries in Twin Falls, Idaho and Indianapolis, Indiana.

"We've done a lot of work on climate action. One of our big focuses is on renewable energy. We have solar installations at our Idaho bakery and at our HQ to generate a portion of the energy those facilities consume," Amy explained.

The Twin Falls bakery has been heralded nationally for its "green" design, with on-demand conveyors, LED lighting, a reflective roof and water source heat pump help the bakery use about 20% less

energy than most conventional bakeries. The idea behind the innovative design concept was to create a space that connects humans with nature.

By doing so, Clif Bar hopes to have a staff that is more creative, more fulfilled, and happier, which only reinforces the company's emphasis on its unique culture. "There is an intense focus on employees and creating an environment where they are happy and want to come to work," she says. From its Thursday all company breakfast meetings to having a workplace filled with dogs, Clif Bar does things differently.

### Importance of Outside Counsel

Amy noted that she relies on outside counsel (including Sheppard Mullin partners **Chris Van Gundy** and **Sascha Henry**) to "help us think strategically about budgeting approaches and case strategies that drive toward efficiency." Especially with its new board, having a partnership and collaboration with outside counsel is extremely important.

Keeping the corporate focus on efficiency is very helpful. She engages with outside counsel to help keep her team updated on different activities in the consumer package goods food space, such as interesting acquisitions or regulatory submissions. Amy says that outside counsel have other clients and a broader perspective, so they can offer best practices and new developments.

Over the last year with COVID-19, Amy worked with several different outside counsel, providing advice regarding employment laws and health and safety regulations. She appreciated having them as compassionate collaborators as the company wrestled with virus and pandemic questions without clear answers.

### Career Advice for Young Lawyers

Amy encourages new associates to "be open, as you never know where your passion is going to lie. You should have a willingness to try different types of work, as you may be surprised that you'll enjoy it." She recalled doing a real estate deal with partner **Julie Ebert** and thought it was really interesting. "Who knew reviewing leases could be so fascinating?" she joked.

She also noted the importance of being industry-focused. A significant part of associate development is creating client relationships, and it's incredibly meaningful when outside counsel understand her business and can provide touch points about her industry. "If you have an industry you are passionate about, hone up on it, as in the end, it will help form deeper relationships with client."

### Preparing for her Role at Clif Bar

Sheppard Mullin was helpful in preparing Amy for her role at Clif Bar. Although Amy was a member of the firm's Finance & Bankruptcy Group, she had a broad role and worked with other practices such as corporate and real estate. Here, she did corporate advising and corporate governance work, which has been helpful for her current role. There are unique corporate governance issues that can arise as private company founders can own other companies too.

Amy also did some work in niche areas, such as maritime law with **Charlie Donovan**. That breadth of experience allowed her to seamlessly transition into an in-house role, as it required her to have more than one area of expertise. Her experience of being a generalist allowed her to issue spot around what different issues might create red flags.

### Sheppard Mullin Memories

Amy noted that she "most misses the collegiality of being in a firm around other lawyers who understand what you do and having more than just a few to bounce ideas off." Being in-house, she can't just walk down the hall and casually talk to someone who is deeply experienced in a unique area.

### Life Outside of Work

Amy's two daughters (aged 15 and 12) keep her busy, especially as she's been working from home during the pandemic.

As a trail runner, avid skier and speed hiker, she embodies the athlete on the iconic Clif Bar wrapper, exploring different climates and terrains in her life outside of the office, including the trails right outside her home.

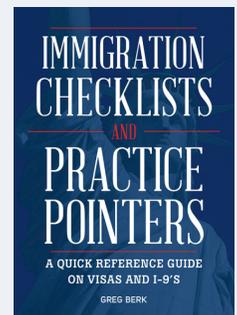
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We thank Amy for taking the time to share her insights with us about her post-Sheppard Mullin career and wish her continued success.

## SHEPPARD MULLIN AND ABA PUBLISH IMMIGRATION BOOK

The American Bar Association recently published a desk reference book authored by Orange County partner **Greg Berk** titled "Immigration Checklists and Practice Pointers." It is designed to give in-house counsel, human resources managers and practicing attorneys quick guidance on corporate immigration and visa issues.

The book can be purchased on the ABA web site for \$127 for members or \$159 for non-members at <https://www.americanbar.org/products/inv/book/393411589/>. We also have seven (7) complementary copies available on a first-come, first-serve basis for in-house counsel alumni. To receive one, contact Greg at [gberk@sheppardmullin.com](mailto:gberk@sheppardmullin.com).



## TRUC DO NOMINATED AS FIRST ASIAN-AMERICAN JUSTICE TO SERVE ON FOURTH DISTRICT APPELLATE COURT



In December, California Governor Gavin Newsom announced the historic nomination of Judge Truc T. Do to serve as an Associate Justice of the Fourth District Court of Appeal, Division One in San Diego. If confirmed, Judge Do will be the first Asian-American Justice in the Court's history, which covers six southern California counties. Judge Do was born in Vietnam and immigrated to the United States as a refugee when she was three years old.

Judge Do was also the first Vietnamese-American judge ever appointed to the San Diego County Superior Court when she was appointed by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. in 2018. She noted, "I am deeply honored by Governor Newsom's nomination and look forward to the opportunity to serve the people of California as an Appellate Justice."

Judge Do was an associate in Sheppard Mullin's Los Angeles office from 1997 to 1999, then left to serve as a Deputy District Attorney at the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office from 1999 to 2009. During her tenure there, she co-prosecuted several high-profile cases, including the Santa Monica Black Widow murder case and the Chester Turner serial killer trial. She then worked as a partner at two large law firms from 2009 to 2018. She earned her law degree from Stanford Law School.

While at Sheppard Mullin, Truc worked in the firm's Labor & Employment Group in our Los Angeles office, working primarily with partners **Kelly Hensley**, **Charlie Barker**, **Richard Simmons** and **Dianne Smith**. Charlie commented, "Although Truc was at the firm only a short time, she did excellent work on several of my discrimination cases. She left the firm as she wanted to try cases and she was able to handle several high profile cases at the DA's office."

Congratulations to Judge Do on this historic milestone!

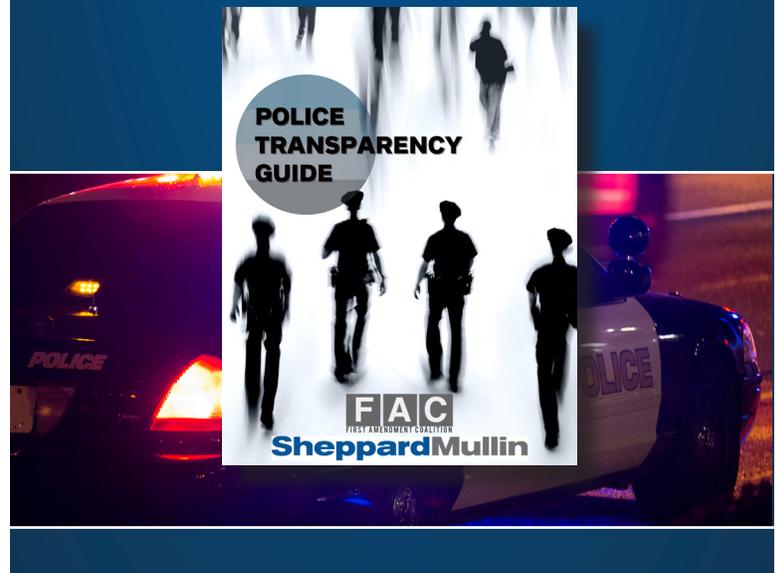
## Sheppard Mullin Co-Authors Police Misconduct and Use-Of-Force Records Access Guide

Sheppard Mullin and the First Amendment Coalition recently announced the release of their jointly published Police Transparency Guide. Palo Alto special counsel **Tenaya Rodewald** was the lead author of this new guide that provides easy-to-follow steps for accessing law enforcement misconduct and use-of-force records in California.

"It is critically important for the public to have better information about how police officers interact with the public and do their jobs, as recent protests helped show. Protecting the public's right of access to government records is essential to the democratic process. I'm very pleased to create a resource that is available to anyone seeking answers about police conduct in California," said Tenaya.

Tenaya's co-author is First Amendment Coalition Executive Director and Sheppard Mullin alumni David Snyder. He added, "The Guide is designed to be the go-to resource for journalists, community groups, activists and lawyers who represent news companies and others that are seeking access to police personnel records and critical incident recordings, such as dash cam and body cam videos, now available under the California Public Records Act."

The Police Transparency Guide features a Legal Compendium written by Tenaya which gives a comprehensive overview of key statutes and developments in case law; a detailed FAQ; and two sample request letters customized for seeking these types of records and audio/visual recordings. To access the new Police Transparency Guide, visit FAC's website or download a complete copy from Sheppard Mullin [here](#).



## HELPING CLIENTS SUCCEED

Sheppard Mullin lawyers work on a range of litigation and transactions to help our clients succeed. Here are just a few examples of our work over the last quarter.



**Troy Aikman, Former Dallas Cowboys Quarterback** – We represented former Dallas Cowboys quarterback Troy Aikman, Pro and College Football Hall of Famer and Super Bowl XXVII MVP, with a strategic partnership between Troy and Taos Mountain Energy Foods, a healthy snack company doing business as Taos Bakes. Troy will serve as spokesperson and creative consultant for the Taos Bakes brands and provide influencer-related services across his social media platforms. The matter was led by Century City partner **Robert Darwell**, Los Angeles partner **David Sands**, and Century City associate **Segun Aluko** who advised Troy and his representatives at Endeavor Ventures in negotiating the Spokesperson and Influencer Agreement and the Profits Interest Grant Agreement.



**Cardiff Oncology / Initial Public Offering** – We represented Cardiff Oncology, Inc. (Nasdaq: CRDF), a clinical-stage oncology therapeutics company developing drugs to treat cancers with the greatest medical need for new treatment options, including KRAS-mutated colorectal cancer, castration-resistant prostate cancer and leukemia, in its underwritten public offering of 7,475,000 shares of its common stock for gross proceeds of approximately \$100.9 million. New York partner **Jeff Fessler** led the deal.



**Chelsea Football Club / Launch of Perfect Play** – The firm represented Chelsea Football Club (in the English Premier League) and its digital business, Chelsea Digital Ventures, in connection with the launch of its first product: Perfect Play. Perfect Play is a mobile-friendly coaching platform that uses artificial intelligence and augmented reality to deliver the expertise of Chelsea FC youth academy coaches to young footballers around the world. The team was led by San Francisco partners **Brian Anderson** and **Rachel Hudson** and Century City partner **Shaun Clark**.



**CSU and SDSU / Acquisition of San Diego Stadium Site** – We represented the California State University system and San Diego State University in the acquisition of the 135-acre stadium site in Mission Valley from the City of San Diego. The site is the home of the San Diego State Aztecs football team and the former home of the San Diego Chargers and the San Diego Padres, which hosted three Super Bowls and two Major League Baseball All-Star games. The transaction has been described as the largest and most complex real estate transaction in recent San Diego history. The land purchase price was approximately \$88 million and the total development costs will exceed \$3 billion. Construction has begun on the redevelopment that will include a new 35,000-capacity, multi-purpose stadium; a campus/innovation district; 4,600 residential units for students, faculty, staff and community members, including 10% onsite affordable units; a hotel and conference center; retail space; and more than 80 acres of parks and open space including a 34-acre River Park. This much needed expansion of San Diego State University will create capacity for up to 15,000 additional students over time. Working closely with attorneys from the California State University system's Office of General Counsel, the team was led by San Diego partners **Domenic Drago** and **Jennifer Chavez**.



**Levi's / Launch of SecondHand** – Sheppard Mullin worked with Levi's on the launch of SecondHand, a buyback and resale program with Gen Z and sustainability in mind, through the Trove recommerce platform. Issues that needed to be addressed ranged from Privacy to COVID-19 health issues to local secondhand (pawn shop) laws that needed to be addressed throughout the country. The program allows a customer to turn in their old Levi's which will be evaluated for condition and marketability and in exchange get merchandise credit to spend on Levi.com, while another customer can then shop for the perfect pair of broken in Levi's on the SecondHand site. The same team had previously worked on a similar project for Nordstrom called SeeYouTomorrow. Century City partner **Craig Cardon** and San Francisco partner **Rachel Hudson** led this matter.



**Rakuten Mobile / Agreement with Tech Mahindra** – We represented Rakuten Mobile, Inc., a Rakuten Group company responsible for mobile communications, in its agreement with Tech Mahindra, a leading provider of digital transformation, consulting and business reengineering services and solutions, in which Tech Mahindra will become a preferred partner for developing and deploying the Rakuten Communications Platform (RCP). As part of the transaction, Rakuten also acquired Tech Mahindra's stake in Altiostar Networks for \$45 million. Tech Mahindra and Rakuten Mobile will leverage their partnership to develop and deploy virtualized mobile networks based on RCP to disrupt the telecom landscape. RCP is a cloud-native telco platform that enables telcos and enterprises around the world to easily build secure and open mobile networks at speed and low cost, to generate new revenue streams and to offer customers innovative and immersive experiences. The deal was led by New York partner **Alexander Lazar**.





**Samsung Electronics / 5G Contract Negotiation** – We assisted Samsung Electronics America in negotiating a \$6.65B contract for the sale of network equipment and services to Verizon Communications Inc. The deal will provide a major boost to the South Korean's firm quest to become a key supplier of 5G equipment. Samsung's agreement with Verizon runs through the end of 2025 and primarily covers 5G infrastructure, though it broadly includes network-equipment sales, installation and maintenance. Washington, D.C. partner **Ray Rutngamlug** led this matter.



**Sizzler / Bankruptcy Filing** – Family-themed steakhouse chain Sizzler filed for Chapter 11 protection in late September in San Jose bankruptcy court, noting it needed to renegotiate the terms of its leases of its 14 corporate-owned restaurants as it deals with the economic fallout of the COVID-19 outbreak. The Mission Viejo, California-based company previously filed for bankruptcy almost 25 years ago, closing more than 100 restaurants as consumer tastes shifted from the family casual steakhouse's offerings. Sizzler is represented by San Francisco partner **Ori Katz**.



**Union Bank / Wage and Hour Appellate Victory** – We recently prevailed before the California Court of Appeal on a wage/hour class action for Union Bank. The plaintiffs represented a class of customer service representatives in California. The class alleged they were forced to work-off-the-clock. The class also brought claims for improper rounding; no second meal period after the 10th hour; on-premises rest periods; no third rest break after 10 hours; and a generic failure to provide meal and rest claims. In a complete victory, the Court of Appeal affirmed the trial court's full denial of class certification based primarily upon the plaintiffs' lack of a coherent and detailed trial plan. Los Angeles partner **Derek Havel** led the litigation team and Los Angeles partner **Matt Tobias** argued the appeal.

## On Demand Learning: Last Chance CLE

In light of the California mandatory continuing legal education's reporting [deadline](#) of February 1, 2021 for attorneys with last names H through M, we can help in-house counsel satisfy some of their requirements. The compliance period runs from February 1, 2018 to January 31, 2021 and must include hours on ethics, elimination of bias and competence.

Highly regarded CLE provider Practising Law Institute (PLI) offers a multitude of online, self-study courses to satisfy requirements. As a PLI Privileged Member, we can offer Sheppard Mullin alumni in-house counsel one free hour of CLE via its "Spotlight Friday" program.

This week's online offering is "[The Insurance Implications of COVID-19 in the Sports and Entertainment Industries](#)" with 70 minutes of MCLE credit. Enter Priority Code FRI1 8AEM2 at checkout to receive this segment at no cost. This discount is active through January 14, 2021.

Go to [www.pli.edu](http://www.pli.edu) to review all the course offerings available for purchase, including the "[MCLE Compliance Marathon](#)" at \$675, which includes four hours of ethics credit, one hour of competence credit and one hour of elimination of bias credit.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Due to the pandemic, our programs have shifted from in person to webinars for the near term. Upcoming webinar topics where our lawyers are speaking include, among others:

- Functional Foods, Dietary Supplements and Personalized Nutrition (including the FDA and FTC's Regulation of Functional Foods and Nutrition-Based Claims) - 1/13/21
- Taking a Shot at COVID-19: What Employers Need to Know About Vaccinating Their Workforce - 1/14/21
- Government Contracts Annual Review (including Cybersecurity and IT) - 1/26/21
- Ad Law Symposium (including Immersive Experiences, Hot Topics in Privacy Law for Advertisers, Antitrust's Existential Crisis and the Effect on the Ad Tech Industry, Cause Marketing: The Ins and Outs of Brands Working with Charities, and Advertising and Social Media) - 1/27/21
- EU State Aid Litigation (including National enforcement of State aid law) - 2/12/21

Please visit our [Events](#) page to learn more about upcoming webinars including dates, time, speakers and registration info. You can also view recordings of past webinars at [www.sheppardmullin.com/newsroom-events.html](http://www.sheppardmullin.com/newsroom-events.html).

## CORONAVIRUS INSIGHTS

To help you stay informed, we continue to add to our “Coronavirus Insights” web [page](#) with relevant blog posts, podcasts and webinar invitations and recordings. You can also subscribe to our Coronavirus Insights [Portal](#) (newsletter), which aggregates content biweekly.



## CONTACT US

For more information about our alumni program, to notify us of a job change, subscribe to a blog, or register for events, contact Alumni Program Senior Manager Michelle O'Driscoll. We look forward to hearing from you and staying in touch. Happy New Year!



**Michelle O'Driscoll**

*Alumni Program Senior Manager,  
Sheppard Mullin*

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We encourage you to follow us on social media to hear the latest developments, from daily blog posts to upcoming events to pro bono news.



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## PODCAST



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