

STAY CONNECTED

alumni news

SheppardMullin

SUMMER 2022

IN THIS ISSUE

Message From The Chair.....1

Diversity Fellowship.....2

Alumni Spotlight Interview:
Jacqueline “Jaxy” Luther.....3

Alumni Moves and
Notable News.....5

Sheppard Mullin is Now
on Instagram.....5

Helping Clients Succeed.....6

Upcoming Events.....7

New Podcast “The Legit Ledger”.....7

STATS AND FACTS

1,072
Lawyers Globally

16 Offices in
5 Countries

10 Practice Groups

23 Industry Teams

37 Blogs | **4** Podcasts

1,932
Alumni in our network

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR: SHEPPARD MULLIN OPENS IN HOUSTON



John Keville



Michelle Replogle



Robert Green



Andrius Kontrimas



Barclay Nicholson



Chad Mills



Katy Shurin



Steve Peterson



Eric Schlichter

I am pleased to share with our valued alumni that Sheppard Mullin has expanded our Texas presence, recently opening a new office in Houston, TX. Houston marks the firm’s 12th domestic office and 16th office worldwide. The Texas legal and business markets are booming, with energy transition continuing to fuel demand. Our Dallas office, which opened in 2018, has been extremely successful and we are confident that Houston will follow in those same footsteps.

I am thrilled to highlight our incredibly talented group of founding partners with diverse practices in the areas of commercial litigation, energy (including renewable energy), international tax, intellectual property litigation and portfolio management, and mergers and acquisitions.

The founding partners of the new office, located at 700 Louisiana Street, include:

- **John Keville** (who will serve as Houston’s Office Managing Partner), **Michelle Replogle** and **Robert “Rob” Green III** from Winston & Strawn, who are seasoned trial lawyers with extensive patent, trade secret and trademark litigation experience;
- **Andrius Kontrimas** and **Barclay Nicholson**, who join us from Norton Rose Fulbright, where Andrius was previously local head of tax for Norton Rose Fulbright while Barclay’s commercial litigation experience spans construction, insurance and energy;
- **Chad Mills** and **Katy Shurin** from Haynes and Boone, who bring significant experience handling structured energy transactions and related energy trading agreements, including renewable energy, natural gas and midstream assets;
- **Steve Peterson**, whose corporate/M&A practice focuses on the energy, food and beverage, hospitality, automotive and industrial sectors, and who joins us from Locke Lord; and
- **Eric Schlichter**, who joins us from McGuireWoods, provides strategic counsel in all aspects of intellectual property law, including litigation, enforcement and prosecution, counseling, licensing and portfolio management.

Sheppard Mullin now has more than 100 lawyers in our nationally-ranked Energy, Infrastructure and Project Finance industry team, recently adding four partners including Winston & Strawn's former energy practice co-chairs **Joe Karp** and **Chris Kolosov** in San Francisco and Los Angeles, respectively. They were reunited with a six-lawyer energy group which included **Katie Gillespie** (now Sheppard Mullin's energy practice co-chair) that joined our Chicago and San Francisco offices from Winston & Strawn in 2017.

Welcome to the firm!



Luca Salvi

Chair

lsalvi@sheppardmullin.com

DIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP NAMED IN HONOR OF GUY HALGREN

To honor our former Chairman, Sheppard Mullin recently created the Guy N. Halgren Diversity Fellowship for law school students. The fellowship is named in honor of Chairman Emeritus Guy Halgren for his longstanding commitment to creating a firm culture that values and celebrates diversity and inclusion.

Guy has always been a champion for diversity, leading the firm's diversity and inclusion program for two decades. Naming this fellowship in his honor is a tribute to his sustained commitment and efforts that have helped establish Sheppard Mullin as an industry leader.

Each year, Sheppard Mullin will select three qualified first-year law school students and award each a \$35,000 scholarship to be paid in three installments over the course of their law school education. The first two payments are made upon conclusion of the recipient's successful participation in the firm's summer associate program, after their first and second years of law school. The final installment is paid upon graduation and acceptance of a full-time associate position at Sheppard Mullin.

The inaugural fellowship class will coincide with the firm's 2023 Summer Associate Program. Each recipient will join the firm as a summer associate and will be paired with a mentor, who will provide professional and career guidance during the 10-week summer program. The fellowship is open to first-year students who are enrolled full-time and in good standing at ABA-accredited law schools and demonstrate a commitment to promoting diversity and inclusion through their activities, background and life experiences. Potential recipients of the fellowship must also demonstrate significant financial need and to have overcome considerable obstacles to reach law school, such as socio-economic disadvantage, disability, being the first in their family to attend college, attending under-resourced schools, or other considerable hardships and challenges.

We are incredibly proud of the progress the firm has made supporting and cultivating an inclusive working environment. Click [here](#) for a video capturing Sheppard Mullin's Diversity & Inclusion journey over the last 30 years. Thank you to Guy for leading the charge on this important movement.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT INTERVIEW: JACQUELINE “JAXY” LUTHER



Jacqueline “Jaxy” Luther

Assistant General Counsel
ABM Industries, Inc. | Tustin, CA

Formerly Business Trial Practice Group,
2011-2021
Orange County Office

We are delighted to profile former Sheppard Mullin partner Jacqueline (“Jaxy”) Luther, now Assistant General Counsel at ABM Industries, Inc. in Tustin, CA.

Career Path

Jaxy grew up in Huntington Beach, CA. She started her leadership path by serving as Student Body President of Ocean View High School. She then continued her education at UC Santa Barbara, obtaining her B.A. in Communications and a minor in Spanish in 2006. She obtained her law degree from Loyola Law School in 2010, graduating *cum laude* and Order of the Coif.

Jaxy began her Sheppard Mullin career as a summer associate in the firm’s Orange County office in 2009. She joined the Business Trial Practice Group after graduating from law school, handling commercial and civil disputes and trust and fiduciary litigation matters. Jaxy was promoted to Partner in February 2020 (on the very same day she gave birth to her second daughter!).

“I spent almost my entire legal career at Sheppard Mullin, and the Orange County office will always be a very special place to me,” Jaxy noted. “I am incredibly grateful for the mentorship, opportunities and friendships I made at the firm.”

In May 2021, Jaxy left Sheppard Mullin to become Assistant General Counsel of ABM Industries. ABM is a Fortune 500, publicly traded company and leading provider of facility solutions throughout the U.S. and various international locations. ABM has more than 140,000 employees and revenues in excess of \$6.4 billion.

Current Roles and Responsibilities

ABM’s legal department is very lean with only 14 in-house lawyers. Jaxy serves as one of five commercial attorneys for ABM. She is a trusted legal advisor and member of the leadership team for ABM’s Business and Industry West and Manufacturing and Distribution Industry Groups, the two largest industry groups for the company.

About her specific role Jaxy said, “My legal practice now is focused on providing commercial advice and counsel to senior leadership, drafting and negotiating commercial contracts, and overseeing and managing commercial litigation and disputes. I also supervise and assist on compliance matters and support strategic business transactions including ABM’s recent \$1.1 billion acquisition of Able Services. There’s never a dull day!”

Importance of Outside Counsel

Jaxy commented at a SMRH Women Lawyers Group panel last December that “It’s really all about client service, or as Sheppard taught me, putting “Clients First.” I liken it to if you go to a great restaurant and the food is wonderful but the service is terrible, you’ll leave dissatisfied. As a consumer of legal services now, that’s where I see the difference between a successful or unsuccessful relationship with outside counsel – you want great customer service in addition to a great work product.”

“Someone very wise must have said that. But all joking aside, it really is about the basics,” Jaxy added. “I can’t impress enough how critical it is to provide timely and ongoing communications. It’s still incredible to me how many outside counsel struggle with doing that.”

Beyond just providing timely status updates, she noted that “truly outstanding counsel also strive to understand the immediate goals of the company in context with its bigger picture objectives. For example, if you’re litigating a dispute, the immediate goal is to obviously prevail in the litigation. But why is the company spending its time and money litigating this particular case? What is it about this particular dispute that wasn’t worth settling for nuisance value? Is it a reputational issue? Is it because the company is seeing a lot of these claims so it’s really important for it to establish precedent? I have found when counsel take the time to ask these questions and understand some of the broader concerns the company might be facing, they are able to provide more effective guidance and that’s always appreciated.”

Pandemic Effect

Like most attorneys, remote work was a fairly foreign concept to Jaxy before the pandemic. However, that all changed post-pandemic. While Jaxy does occasionally travel for work (including a recent trip to Austin, TX to provide legal training), she primarily works from her home in Huntington Beach. This has given her a lot of flexibility with her young family. She does commute into the Austin office when she needs some in-person interaction, but she noted that, “In my role, I support a lot of team members on the East Coast. It’s therefore a nice perk to be able to take some of those early morning calls from home without having to hop on the 405.”

As for the company, ABM experienced large growth during the pandemic. “ABM started as a janitorial company and that is still one of the prominent services it offers in addition to our other capabilities such as energy solutions, electrical and lighting,

facilities engineering, HVAC and mechanical, landscape and turf, mission critical solutions and parking,” explained Jaxy. “We provide services to more than 15 different industries including education, government, healthcare, aviation, and manufacturing, to name a few. As you can imagine, those industries had a particularly increased focus on enhanced cleaning programs and solutions during the pandemic and now that people are returning to work, we’re seeing that trend continue.”

Career Advice for Young Lawyers

When Jaxy was a junior associate at Sheppard Mullin she was told that “a client may not read your briefs, but they will read your time entries.” Now being an in-house counsel, she confirmed that advice rings true and emphasized the importance of providing timely and accurate bills. “There’s no attorney I know that enjoys billing, but unfortunately, it is incredibly important. When matters are not correctly budgeted or have inconsistent time entries, it can be very detrimental to the credibility and relationship with outside counsel.”

“For very junior attorneys, my best advice would be to find ways to add value even while you’re substantively learning to practice the law. For example, even if you have to Google what a demurrer is (no judgment, I’ve been there), you can still contribute to the team and the client by staying on top of deadlines or just learning the facts of the case or the documents really well.” Jaxy also remarked that having a good attitude and showing a desire to learn also goes a long way to making people want to invest in your career. “Attitude is a sometimes overlooked ‘basic’ that makes all the difference.”

Preparing for Her Role at ABM

When asked how Sheppard Mullin helped prepare her for her in-house role, Jaxy laughed and said, “All the years getting chewed out by Orange County partner **Aaron Malo!** In all seriousness, Aaron was, and remains, a trusted mentor and friend. He taught me not only how to be a good lawyer, but also the importance of being thoughtful and providing practical counsel. He also led by example and instilled the importance of pro bono in me. I’m very proud to follow in his footsteps and serve on the Board of the Public Law Center along with Orange County partner **Steve Cardoza**, and fellow Sheppard alum Brian Farrell.”

“I was also really fortunate to go to trial several times with retired Orange County partner Randy Godshall. Those were invaluable experiences and made me understand the ins and outs of litigation – I even grew to have an appreciation for discovery because, while it can be mundane, I got to see firsthand how it can matter. The first time I went to trial with Randy I was just finishing my first year as an associate. I’m sure I was more of a burden than a help to him. I will always be eternally grateful to Randy for the opportunities, patience and willingness he had to invest in a young attorney and those are lessons I carry with me today.”

Sheppard Mullin Memories

When asked what she missed most about the firm, Jaxy noted that “It’s very cliché, but it’s the people. To this day, my mentors and some of my closest friends remain at Sheppard.”

She also really misses being a part of the Orange County Women Lawyers Group (WLG). Jaxy has such fond memories of the camaraderie and support from the WLG that she founded a similar women’s group at ABM. She thought it was important to replicate a “space and culture of promoting, supporting and empowering other women” and credits Sheppard Mullin’s WLG for providing a great blueprint to follow. She noted that the OC office was very lucky to have such fantastic female leadership with **Justine Casey, Frances Hernandez, Lisa Harris** and **Linda Igarashi**, and she was thrilled to learn that **Lauren Strickroth** and **Marisa Brutoco** had joined the Orange County partnership. She looks forward to celebrating the next class of female partners to join those impressive women.

Life Outside Work

When she’s not working, Jaxy spends most of her time chasing around her two daughters (ages 2 and 3 ½) and her goldendoodle Coco, “who in and of herself, is a full-time job.” Jaxy was also fortunate to have met her husband, Doug Luther, at Sheppard Mullin and “as the world is slowly returning to normal, we are taking advantage by going on lots of family trips. It’s great to get so much quality family time together. We also live close to a dog beach so we spend a lot of time there trying to tire out our three girls (two human, one furry). Doug and I have also recently taken up tennis so that’s our new hobby,” she concluded.

We wish Jaxy, Doug and their daughters many years of splashing on the beach and volleying over the net.



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

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.



Ethan Aronson is now Corporate Counsel, M&A and Strategic Alliances at Sony Interactive Entertainment in New York, NY. He was a corporate associate in our New York office from 2018 - 2022.



Chung Chan is now Associate Counsel, Ethics & Compliance at Activision Blizzard in Santa Monica, CA. He was a litigation associate in our Los Angeles office from 2019 - 2022.



Clark Chu is now Deputy General Counsel at OrbiMed Advisors LLC in San Francisco, CA. He was previously a corporate associate in our Silicon Valley office from 2011 - 2013.



Rich Foehr is now General Counsel at GE Digital in San Ramon, CA. He was previously a corporate associate in our San Francisco office from 1999 - 2000.



Nancy Grauman is now Senior Corporate Counsel at T-Mobile in Bellevue, WA. She was a real estate special counsel in our Los Angeles office from 2009 - 2022.



Ariel Fox Johnson is now Privacy Counsel at Zoom Video Communications, Inc. in Shaker Heights, OH. She was previously an intellectual property associate in our Washington, D.C. office from 2013 - 2014.



Will Kim is now Employment Counsel at Block, Inc. in San Francisco, CA. He was previously a labor and employment associate in our Los Angeles office from 2010 - 2016.



Ryan McCortney is now a Legal Advisor, Employment Matters for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, travelling globally. He was previously a labor and employment partner first in our Los Angeles, then our Orange County office from 1987 - 2022.



Daniel Nadal is now Deputy Attorney General, Consumer Protection Section at the California Department of Justice in San Diego, CA. He was a litigation associate in our San Diego office from 2019 - 2022.



Kevin Straw is now Director, Brand Partnerships at Niantic, Inc. in Los Angeles, CA. He was previously an entertainment associate in our Century City office from 2004 - 2007.



Daniel Teplin is now Vice President at Waterfall Asset Management LLC in New York, NY. He was previously a corporate associate in our New York office from 2016 - 2017.



Matt Turetzky is now Associate General Counsel, Global Consumer Litigation at Coinbase, Inc. in San Francisco, CA. He was previously a governmental/litigation associate in our San Francisco and Washington, D.C. offices from 2014 - 2018.



Srikant Viswanadham is now Senior IP Counsel for NCR Corporation in Atlanta, GA. He was an IP associate in our Washington, D.C. office from 2019 - 2022.

Congrats to all our alumni! 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 al



SHEPPARD MULLIN'S NOW ON INSTAGRAM

Sheppard Mullin has added Instagram as our newest social media channel. Our goal is to reach a broad, external audience to tell a more personal story about Sheppard Mullin through Instagram. We may even feature a few interesting alumni in the future!

Follow @sheppardmullin on [Instagram](#) and learn more about our local office events, partnerships in the community, and the unique side of Sheppard Mullin. Look for short features with interesting photos which tell our story. Join in the fun and help us spread the word on Instagram about Sheppard Mullin.

HELPING CLIENTS SUCCEED

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



Costco – Los Angeles partner **Tracey Kennedy** obtained a jury verdict in favor of Costco Wholesale Corporation after an eight-day jury trial in Orange County Superior Court in April. The plaintiff, a former Costco employee, sued Costco and his former supervisor for race harassment, failure to prevent race harassment and negligent supervision and retention, after being fired for eating food without paying for it.



County of Los Angeles – Sheppard Mullin, representing the County of Los Angeles, obtained a significant victory before the Ninth Circuit when the Court affirmed the dismissal of a suit by Big Tobacco challenging the County's 2019 ordinance banning the sale of all flavored tobacco products (including menthol cigarettes and e-vaping products) due to their threat to public health. The team representing the county was led by Century City partner **Kent Raygor**.



Disability Rights Advocates – Sheppard Mullin announced a historic settlement agreement in June by disability rights advocates and the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) to make the New York City subway accessible for people with disabilities who cannot use stairs to access the system. The settlement agreement calls for the MTA to make at least 95% of the New York City subway's 364 currently inaccessible stations (more than 75%) accessible by 2055. "This landmark agreement brings to a conclusion decades of advocacy by the disability community and our clients for equal access to New York City's critical subway system," commented New York partner **Dan Brown**, Sheppard Mullin's Pro Bono Partner who has been working as co-counsel with Disability Rights Advocates on this case since 2017. Click [here](#) to read DRA's press release with additional information.



Export Packers Company Limited – We obtained a dismissal for our client Export Packers Company Limited (dba Odem International), an importer of honey, of an antitrust and RICO class action filed by a putative class of U.S. honey producers in the Eastern District of California. Plaintiffs alleged that defendants, including Odem International, conspired to import and distribute fake or adulterated honey, falsely certifying it as genuine and then selling it into the U.S. at low prices that U.S. producers of genuine honey were unable to compete with. Washington, D.C. partner **Leo Caseria** led this matter.



Morningstar Inc. – We represented Morningstar Inc., a leading provider of independent investment research (Nasdaq: MORN), in connection with a new Credit Agreement with Bank of America, N.A. (BoFA), pursuant to which BoFA will provide Morningstar with financing in the aggregate amount of up to \$1.1 billion. The financing consists of a five-year \$650 million delayed draw term facility and a five-year \$450 million revolving credit facility. The proceeds of any draws under the delayed draw term facility were used by Morningstar to acquire Leveraged Commentary & Data, a market leader in news, research, data, insights and indexes for the leveraged finance market, from S&P Global. Morningstar's General Counsel, Pat Maloney, was a Sheppard Mullin partner in our Chicago office. Chicago special counsels **Ken Peterson** and **Carrie McNally** assisted Morningstar in this matter.



Save Mart Companies – The firm represented the Save Mart Companies in its sale to Los Angeles-based private equity firm Kingswood Capital Management LP. Headquartered in Modesto, CA, Save Mart Companies is the largest family-owned regional grocery chain in California, operating 204 stores under the banners of Save Mart, Lucky Stores and FoodMaxx, and serving communities throughout California and Northern Nevada. The transaction was led by Washington, D.C. partner **Frank Bacelli**.



Unum Group and Provident Life & Accident Insurance Company – After almost four weeks at trial in Santa Clara Superior Court, Sheppard Mullin secured a victory for Unum Group and Provident Life & Accident Insurance Company. Plaintiff asserted claims for breach of contract, bad faith and punitive damages arising out of the denial of his disability claim after he suffered a heart attack. Plaintiff rejected several settlement offers in seven figures shortly before the trial. At trial, plaintiff sought approximately \$5 million in compensatory damages and \$66 million in punitive damages. After one day of deliberations, the jury returned a unanimous verdict (12-0) in favor of the defendants on all claims. The trial team was led by Los Angeles partner **Theona Zhordania**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our CLE programs have shifted to mostly hybrid events, including an in-person and webinar component, unless otherwise indicated. Upcoming events where our lawyers are speaking include, among others:

Women in Healthcare Leadership Collaborative Dobbs Series, Privacy in the Wake, and a Legislative Awakening

July 26, 2022, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. PT

Webinar

Chicago partner **Sara Shanti** and Los Angeles partner **Morgan Forsey** will present.

Stafford's Adverse Witness Depositions

August 9, 2022, 10:00-11:30am PT

Webinar

Dallas partner **Stephen Fox** will be presenting on "Advanced Techniques in Exhaustion, Boxing-In, and Summarizing"

Castle Publications' 2022 Wage and Hour Laws

September 13, 2022, 9:00am - 4:30pm PT

In Person in Monrovia, CA or Virtual

Los Angeles partner **Richard Simmons** will be presenting

Castle Publications' 2022 Employment Discrimination and Employee Relations Laws

September 14, 2022, 9:00am - 4:30pm PT

In Person in Monrovia, CA or Virtual

Los Angeles partner **Richard Simmons** and Los Angeles associate **Hilary Habib** will be presenting

Castle Publications' 2022 Employee Handbook and Personnel Policies

September 20, 2022, 9:00am - 4:30pm PT

In Person in Monrovia or Virtual

Los Angeles partners **Richard Simmons** and **Nora Stilestein** will be presenting

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



NEW BLOCKCHAIN PODCAST LAUNCHES, THE LEGIT LEDGER

We are pleased to announce the launch of Sheppard Mullin's fourth podcast, "The Legit Ledger", hosted by Sheppard Mullin's Blockchain & FinTech Team (including Washington, D.C. partner **Jim Gatto**, SF partner **Yasamin Parsafar** and D.C. associate **Gabe Khoury**). *The Legit Ledger* is an innovative combination of legal analysis and practical advice from blockchain industry professionals on how to use technology solutions and business models to keep things legitimate. It will cover everything related to blockchain technology and its many uses, the metaverse, NFTs, crypto, AI/AR/VR, and all legal issues that Web3 presents.



Listen to our first four episodes available now:

Episode 1: Intellectual Property Consideration for Licensing NFTs with Jim Gatto and Yasamin Parsafar

Episode 2: The Current State of NFT Regulation with Jim Gatto and Gabe Khoury

Episode 3: Licensing Considerations for NFT Creators and Owners with Jim Gatto and Gabe Khoury

Episode 4: Detecting and Enforcing IP Infringement in Web3 with Kevin Tian, CEO at Doppel

If you'd like to learn more about this emerging area, subscribe to the show via [Apple Podcasts](#), [Stitcher Radio](#) or [Spotify](#) to receive new episodes delivered straight to your podcast player. *The Legit Ledger* can also be accessed through the firm's web site at www.thelegitletter.com.

CONTACT US

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



Michelle O'Driscoll

Alumni Program Senior Manager,
Sheppard Mullin

modriscoll@sheppardmullin.com
alumni@sheppardmullin.com

PODCASTS



French Insider Podcast: French Insider podcast is dedicated to helping French investors and companies growing their companies in the U.S.

www.frenchinsiderpodcast.com



Nota Bene Podcast: Explore how today's international legal headlines will affect your global business on *Nota Bene*, a weekly podcast for the C-Suite.

www.notabenepodcast.global



The Legit Ledger: Discusses legal issues resulting from blockchain technologies and business models, and offers practical solutions for keeping their use legit.

www.thelegitledger.com



Restructure This! Podcast: Discussion of the latest trends and controversies in Chapter 11 bankruptcy, commercial insolvency and distressed investing.

www.restructurethispodcast.com

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

(@SHEPPARDMULLIN)

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



LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/sheppard-mullin-richter-&-hampton-llp>



Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SheppardMullin>



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SheppardMullin>



Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/SheppardMullin>

STAY CONNECTED
alumni news
SheppardMullin

Brussels | Century City | Chicago | Dallas | Houston | London | Los Angeles | New York | Orange County
San Diego (Downtown) | San Diego (Del Mar) | San Francisco | Seoul | Shanghai | Silicon Valley | Washington, D.C.

www.sheppardmullin.com