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## 46 Law Firm, Corporate Leaders Honored For AI Advocacy

By **Steven Lerner**

*Law360 (February 22, 2022, 4:39 PM EST)* -- Leaders from Google, Starbucks, Dentons and Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP were among those honored by legal technology giant Relativity ODA LLC as part of its first annual list of Artificial Intelligence Visionaries on Tuesday.

The list of 46 honorees includes partners and general counsel as well as leaders sitting in e-discovery, diversity, privacy, compliance and risk management roles at Fortune 500 companies and top law firms.

More than half of the honorees have used AI in their organizations and taken steps to accelerate its adoption in areas that have historically been slower to embrace new technology, according to Relativity.

Others have advocated for the use of AI and have understood its application in law, the company said.

"I think what we are witnessing now will be seen as a turning point in history — the emergence of a dynamic group of AI visionaries who are blazing a trail for AI adoption, particularly in functions where managing risk is a top priority and the approach to technology adoption has been more conservative," Relativity CEO Mike Gamson said in a statement.

Unlike data scientists and machine learning engineers, most of Relativity's AI Visionaries have no technical background, according to the company. However, it said that all honorees recognized the potential of AI and have made strides to incorporate it into their organizations.

BigLaw firms were well-represented on the list, such as Mallory Acheson, head of practice innovation for Nelson Mullins; Maria Earley, a partner with Morrison & Foerster; Jessica Maurer, an antitrust partner with Mayer Brown; and Virginia Essandoh, Chief Diversity Officer at Ballard Spahr.

"The opportunity to leverage AI to bring unconscious bias to the surface can have a significant impact on creating a more equitable, fair performance review process," Essandoh said in a statement.

The list also contains legal leaders from corporations, including Ron Harry, director of legal operations for Honeywell International Inc.; Peter Lefkowitz, Chief Digital Risk Officer at Citrix Systems Inc.; Jennifer Harkins Garone, senior director of privacy and information governance at Carnival Corp.; and Josh Kreamer, director of e-discovery at AstraZeneca PLC.

"Technology can help us reach the efficiency we're looking for and free up our team to work on what they're truly good at doing," Kreamer said in a statement.

Relativity confirmed to Law360 Pulse that some of the AI Visionaries are also customers, but it's unable to reveal their names due to confidentiality clauses.

--Editing by Adam LoBelia.

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