Mobilizing for equality at Morgan Lewis

By JAMI MCKEON Firm chair at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius

The somber aftermath of George Floyd's tragic killing against the backdrop of a seemingly rising tide of intolerance, inequality, and brutality in America ignited a long-overdue global movement for racial justice, with communities across the United States and around the world unifying to demand

To do our part to answer the call, Morgan Lewis launched our Mobilizing for Equality task force to reflect our commitment as a law firm to more directly, effectively, and aggressively mobilize against racial injustice.

Fourteen Mobilizing Equality working groups are curating substantive racial justice projects, including developing an internal platform for discussions on racism, power and privilege; supporting minority-owned businesses and community economic development; litigating high-impact racial

safe policing practices; providing free services to the racially disadvantaged; and working to secure voting rights.

Our task force includes partnering with alumni and clients to share our efforts and multiply their impact. We are extremely proud of the advances these groups have made already-and energetically focused on doing

Fireside Chats Tackling Racial Injustice

We have been honored to host a series of fireside chats exploring racial bias and diversity, including a recent conversation between our partner Richard Taffet and former New York County Supreme Court Justice Milton Tingling, where the judge described his encounters with racial bias in the judicial system beginning in the 1970s (read the Q&A).

And our Black Lawyer Network recently welcomed former Morgan Lewis partner Sandra

justice matters; collaborat- Phillips Rogers—now general ing with law enforcement on counsel and chief diversity officer (among other responsibilities) for our great client Toyota Motor North America-for a fireside chat with our own Grace Speights, a fierce and high-profile advocate for diversity (read the Q&A).

Honoring Black Excellence

This past year, Morgan Lewis observed Juneteenth as a firm holiday to recognize and reflect on the end of slavery in the United States. To honor Black History Month, our Black Lawyer Network was proud to present a firmwide video timeline of milestones celebrating Black excellence and the profound impact Black individuals have made on U.S. history, and compile community and pro bono opportunities on important racial justice topics.

Aligned in the spirit of promoting economic justice for all, our Mobilizing for Equality's Economic Development and Investment working group is thrilled to partner with the Greater sive firm and global community.

Harlem Chamber of Commerce during Black History Month for three days of panel discussions on financial literacy, economic empowerment, and pathways uplifting entrepreneurs of color. Featured speakers will include New York State Senator Brian Benjamin; Michael T. Pugh, president/CEO of Carver Federal Savings Bank; Dr. Vincent Boudreau, president of The City College of New York; and GHCC President Lloyd Williams.

At Morgan Lewis, we know our response to racial injustice must be thoughtful, respectful and, above all, long lasting and impactful. We know there is much work to do. We will continue to pursue progress at our firm and in the communities we serve, striving always to convert aspiration into action. We invite you to join us as we work toward a better future.

Visit Morgan Lewis's diversity and inclusion page to learn more about the firm's efforts to create a more diverse and inclu-

Morgan Lewis

We are proud to stand with the

GREATER HARLEM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

during Black History Month to promote financial literacy, guidance, and empowerment to young entrepreneurs of color.

At Morgan Lewis, we know that aspirations are good, but actions are better. With our expansive **Mobilizing for Equality** initiative, we are doing our part to tackle racial injustice head on—at our firm and in the communities we serve.

