

Davis Polk

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Alumni Year in Review

**Our dynamic alumni network is made up of more than 4,000 lawyers who live in over 50 countries and work across all sectors of business, government, law and academia.**



# Highlights

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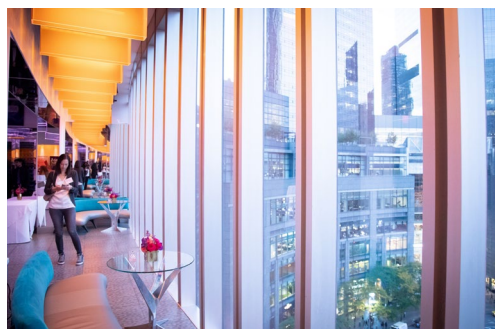
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### Stay connected

To keep your information up-to-date and stay connected to all of our resources and happenings, please visit our website or email us at [alumni@davispolk.com](mailto:alumni@davispolk.com).

### LinkedIn

We also invite you to join us on LinkedIn in the Davis Polk Alumni group.



### Cover photo:

This year's cover features a photo of Robert, the site of Davis Polk's 2023 Alumnae Reception, just before our guests arrived.

# Message to our alumni

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## A note from our Alumni Head Carissa Pilotti

Happy New Year and welcome to our 2023 Alumni Year in Review! We are delighted to share with you many exciting developments and accomplishments of the past year, both at the firm and within our alumni community.

2023 was a big year for Davis Polk – we opened a new office in Brussels, announced major updates to all three of our U.S. office spaces and continued to grow as a firm and take on consequential matters. You can read about all of this news, including an exclusive interview with the heads of our new Brussels office, in the pages of this Review.

Among the highlights of this year's alumni programming was reconnecting with hundreds of alums around the world at our events. The launch of our career panel series – one of several new programs this year – was a particular stand-out. We kicked off this new program with Alumni in Sports, which featured alumni who have taken their talents to NBC Sports and the MLB, NBA and NFL. This very well-attended event showcased the many exciting, and perhaps unexpected, places Davis Polk can take its lawyers in both career and life. Other exciting updates for our program include the arrival of a new class to Davis Polk Revisited, our year-long reentry program (check out the great Q&A with a class of 2021 participant on page 23!), CLE credit opportunities, expanded career development offerings, and exclusive discounts for travel, banking, cultural enrichment and entertainment.

Unsurprisingly, 2023 was also a year of tremendous accomplishments by all of you. This year you were active contributors to your own communities and volunteered and supported each other through triumphs and challenges. You held public office, founded organizations, filled the c-suites of major corporations, served as judges in federal and state courts, took roles in academia and published books – among many other pursuits. We continue to be blown away by the talent and tenacity of all those who have walked Davis Polk's halls.

Finally, on a personal note, I would like to share how honored I feel to work with you as part of the Alumni team. My career has been defined by my Davis Polk colleagues and friends, and I am so grateful for the opportunity to continue to engage with you all. Best wishes for a happy and healthy year ahead!

With my warmest regards,

Carissa



### Alumni in Sports panel March 15

Together with Career Development, we hosted a career panel discussion and reception in New York featuring five Davis Polk alums who work in sports, including at NBC Sports Group, the NBA, MLB, and NFL and the San Diego Padres.



Alumni events



### Real Estate reception March 28

New York Real Estate lawyers and alums reconnected and enjoyed some friendly competition over ping pong during their night out at Slate NY in Chelsea.



### Alumni insights at Lawyering 301

On March 31, five Davis Polk alums visited our third year associates in New York during their Lawyering 301 training to share reflections on charting one's career, their time at Davis Polk and to answer questions about what they're up to now. This is just one example of the constant efforts our network of engaged alums make to help each other and our current lawyers succeed in career and life. Thank you for contributing to our community!





**Restructuring reception**  
**May 2**

New York Restructuring lawyers and alums met up at the Dream Midtown's PHD Terrace for a cocktail reception.



**Financial Institutions reception**  
**September 21**

New York Financial Institutions lawyers and alums reconnected at Quality Bistro.





## Northern California reception September 28

The NorCal office, its alums and several lawyers from other offices gathered at the Rosewood Sand Hill in Menlo Park.





# Hong Kong 30th Anniversary October 26

The Hong Kong office celebrated its 30th anniversary with alums and current lawyers, including our Senior Leadership Team, at the Hong Kong Club.





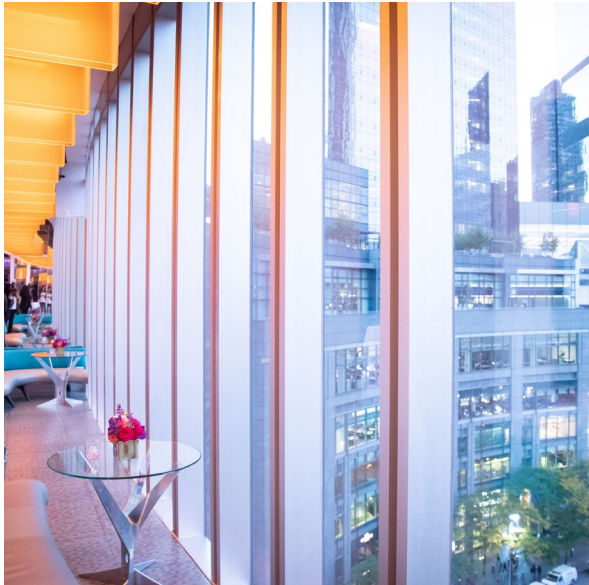
## 2023 Alumnae Reception October 12

Alumnae and current lawyers gathered at Robert, the restaurant at the top of Columbus Circle's Museum of Arts and Design.





2023 Alumnae Reception (cont.)  
October 12





## Among many accomplishments and new developments from the past year, we thought these might interest you:



### Launch of European antitrust practice

In January, Davis Polk announced the launch of a European antitrust practice based in Brussels. The European Commission is a critical antitrust authority and we are excited to be able to offer our clients sophisticated antitrust capabilities with respect to matters under EU law. This practice is being spearheaded by respected Brussels practitioners Jürgen Schindler and Frances Dethmers, with whom we did an exclusive interview for this publication on page 18.

### Bank crisis

In March 2023, when crisis struck the banking system and set off a series of chain reactions, the United States' most powerful financial institutions looked to Davis Polk for guidance. The American Lawyer noted that we were "right at the center of the action" and Bloomberg Law reported that having "helped shepherd the financial industry through the 2008 financial meltdown" our "crisis veteran" lawyers were "trusted once again with helping shore up the global financial system." With deep, long-standing relationships throughout the industry and its regulatory bodies, and a reputation and history of helping clients navigate similar situations, Davis Polk was ideally suited to serve as an organizing force and respond to the crisis, ultimately playing a role in every key event along the way.

Our lawyers across nearly a dozen practices advised or continue to advise on the following:

- A consortium of the eight U.S. G-SIBs and three large regional banks on their collective uninsured deposit of \$30B into First Republic Bank. This action was designed to improve market confidence and stem the outflow of uninsured deposits from First Republic following the failures of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank. This unprecedented, time-sensitive transaction was launched and closed within three days.
- UBS on its acquisition of Credit Suisse, creating a business with more than \$5 trillion in total invested assets.
- Signature Bridge Bank on various legal, regulatory and corporate governance matters related to its creation, operation and exit from bridge bank status.
- Silicon Valley Bridge Bank on a range of issues relating to its status as a bridge bank and ending with the acquisition of substantially all of its deposits by First Citizens.





Joe Hall      David Portilla      Meg Tahyar      Zach Zweihorn

### Davis Polk partners testify five times before congressional subcommittees

Between April 27 and September 19, 2023, partners Joe Hall, David Portilla, Meg Tahyar and Zach Zweihorn testified before various House subcommittees at what was noted by [Bloomberg Law](#) as an unusually frequent pace.

Joe, head of our ESG practice, testified on April 27 before the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Commodity Markets, Digital Assets, and Rural Development hearing on digital asset regulatory gaps. He discussed the lack of consumer confidence and lost economic activity caused by persistent under-regulation of blockchain-based digital assets.

Zach appeared before the House Financial Services Subcommittee on Digital Assets, Financial Technology and Inclusion in an April 27 hearing on gaps in digital assets regulation. He discussed digital assets as unique securities incompatible with traditional market regulations and the importance of the SEC adjusting said regulations in order to facilitate a transparent and well-supervised digital asset market in the United States.

Meg, head of our Financial Institutions practice, testified twice this year: on May 18, she appeared before the House Financial Services Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Monetary Policy where, regarding recent bank failures, she underscored the need for independent, non-partisan investigation and a look at resources challenges among bank examiners; on September 19, she testified before the same subcommittee during their hearing on regulatory overreach and its economic consequences.

David, who joined the firm in April, testified on May 18 before the House Financial Services Subcommittee on Digital Assets, Financial Technology and Inclusion at a hearing where he discussed the urgent need to establish a framework for regulating stablecoins before scale makes change more difficult.

### Kisha Nunez joins Davis Polk as Chief DEI Officer

On October 2, Kisha Nunez joined Davis Polk as our new Chief DEI Officer; she is responsible for DEI initiatives across all areas of the firm globally. Kisha came to us from the strategic advisory firm Brunswick Group, where she served as Global Head of DEI. She previously spent 20 years at Wachtell Lipton, including as Director of Diversity & Recruiting.



### Hong Kong office celebrates 30th anniversary

On October 26, 2023, Davis Polk's Hong Kong office celebrated its 30th anniversary with a party at the Hong Kong Club. The event highlighted the firm's commitment to Hong Kong and Greater China and its partnership with clients throughout Asia. We are proud that Davis Polk has become a go-to firm for top China corporates and financial institutions, offering a full suite of legal services on the ground. Our team has continued to grow in size and impact in China, becoming one of the country's largest international firms by headcount, with more than 100 qualified legal professionals on the ground. Photos from the event, which was attended by alums and current lawyers, including our Senior Leadership Team, are printed on page 9.



**In 2023, Davis Polk announced updates to all three of its U.S. offices: a complete renovation of our New York headquarters and moves to new, modernized office spaces in Northern California and Washington DC. We are thrilled about this continued growth and look forward to working together in these beautiful and functional spaces.**



450 Lex and PanAm building in background, 1991

## New York

In the spring of 1992, Davis Polk moved its headquarters from 1 Chase Plaza in Manhattan's Financial District to 450 Lex – a brand-new, 38-story office building at the corner of 45th Street and Lexington Avenue constructed from within the historic shell of the old Grand Central Post Office. At the time, the building was notably state-of-the-art, boasting features designed specifically for the firm, including one of the largest private law libraries in the country. The new location – a stone's throw from Grand Central Terminal and at the base of Park Avenue – was also lauded as a strategic move for the future; Davis Polk would be positioned close to clients and where its lawyers would want to work and entertain.

Over the last 31 years, our New York office has grown significantly from our initial occupancy, and it is now time to expand further – and renovate! In August, we signed a 25-year lease extension, finalizing plans to fully overhaul our space and grow our footprint even more. We are thrilled to unveil a number of updates, including modernized workspaces and lobbies, as well as new social spaces, including outdoor terraces and a coffee and drinks bar. We are also adding new event, meeting and dining spaces.



Construction of 450 Lex, 1990

**Office updates**





Credit: Renderings by Gensler.

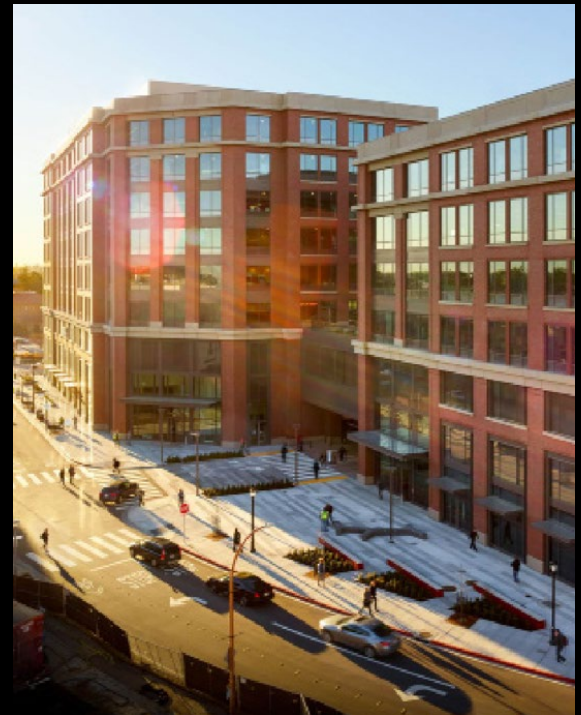




## Northern California

To better accommodate Davis Polk's plans for continued growth in the Bay Area, our Northern California office is moving to Redwood City in late 2024. Since launching this practice in our current Menlo Park space almost 25 years ago, we have expanded as much as our building will allow. Our new office at 900 Middlefield Road will be much larger, and we are designing a space that will promote togetherness and collaboration.

This move is not only driven by a need for more space, but also by an opportunity to create a more functional and modern environment in an area with great amenities. In Redwood City, our offices, meeting rooms, café and other gathering areas will be modern, light-filled and comfortable, and our team will have access to a private terrace. The building is centrally located in the heart of Redwood City's vibrant downtown area, with a Caltrain station and abundant options for dining and entertaining close by.



Credit: Kilroy



Credit: Hines

## Washington DC

In the spring of 2023, we announced plans to relocate Davis Polk's Washington DC office to 1050 17th Street, N.W., a new building in DC's Central Business District a few blocks away from our long-time office at 901 15th Street, N.W. The office space is modern and light-filled, with layouts optimized for collaboration; it will also comfortably accommodate our continued growth in Washington.

A few of the highly anticipated amenities at the new space are a massive fitness center, garage parking and secure bike storage. To kick things off before our official move into the space, our DC partners and counsel gathered with their families on July 4 to celebrate Independence Day and watch the fireworks from our office's beautiful private roof deck.







# A conversation with Jürgen Schindler and Frances Dethmers

Jürgen Schindler, partner and Head of EU Antitrust, and Frances Dethmers, EU Antitrust Special Adviser, are spearheading the launch of Davis Polk's newest office in Brussels, Belgium, where our European antitrust practice will be based. Read on to learn more about them, their experience establishing a new Davis Polk office, and the city of Brussels.

## What drew you to join Davis Polk?

**Jürgen:** Davis Polk has a stellar reputation that reaches as far as Brussels. Opening an office for such a firm is very exciting – it's the chance of a lifetime. The overwhelmingly positive feedback we've gotten about the office's launch from our community in Brussels, including from many people we've known for 20+ years, really speaks to that. In addition, Davis Polk is very attractive because of its partnership culture. A partnership of under 200 has a more human size that is and can still be based on trust and collaboration. At our size, the partners are committed to each other and to the firm that they collectively create. It's a partnership culture that has almost fallen out of time. I really like the fact that it still exists here.

**Frances:** There were several things – first, the idea of setting up a new office was very attractive – it is different from anything I've done before and it appeals to my entrepreneurial side. I also felt that there was an immediate personality click; the people are very genuine, smart, passionate about the law and, like me, many are unabashedly nerdy. I think in our profession you find a lot of people who are all talk, but to me, Davis Polk's culture is the opposite – it's about the substance here.

## What are you most excited about with respect to opening the firm's practice in Brussels?

**Frances:** I'm excited to create a legacy and about the quality of the work that we'll be doing from the Brussels office. We are striving to become the firm that everyone in Brussels wants to work for or with. So far, I'm really pleased with the atmosphere we've created – I think the launch event perfectly illustrated who we are; it was not a stiff, formal reception, it was really a party. It was fun and you could tell people felt at ease.

**Jürgen:** There is a lot of movement in Brussels right now – this traditionally more level market has suddenly become very active for many international firms. As the headquarters of the EU, with 27 member states, 24 official languages and about 450 million consumers, Brussels is the center of EU law and regulation that significantly affects clients from around the globe. EU antitrust law is booming and new regulations have been added continuously over the last few years (like the Digital Markets Act and the Foreign Subsidies Regulation, to name a few), so our work becomes even more impactful. Davis Polk is one of the American law firms that has had the courage to step forward and join the action.





## In your view, does Davis Polk bring anything unique to the Brussels market, considering the recent arrivals of other American law firms?

**Jürgen:** One of the unique things is the firm's very strong brand and client following – I was surprised by how the firm rings a bell with so many people. Out of the many U.S. law firms working in Europe, not everyone has that same brand recognition and you don't get the same reaction that you get when you say "I'm working for Davis Polk."

I expect that we'll bring the same level of high-profile impact that the firm has brought to every other market it's established in – to do that would mean a huge shift in Brussels' competitive landscape.

**Frances:** I think there are only a few firms out there who can truly say that they have leading experts in competition law in the U.S., the UK and the EU, and Davis Polk is one of them. Many of the firms who have a leading presence here in Brussels don't have the same presence in the U.S. I think that is quite a unique proposition. I really feel that the ambition at Davis Polk is not that we should become the largest or that we should follow the crowd – we

have a clear and decisive strategy. This approach coupled with our principled culture, and the fact that we are just truly nice people, really stands out among other American firms in Brussels, both in terms of recruiting and in attracting clients.

## What do you find most satisfying about your work?

**Jürgen:** I find the most satisfying work to be the very difficult cases when people have almost given up hope, but we can actually still achieve something and help our clients. I really like working with people who are creative and committed to helping clients when matters get really tough.

**Frances:** I am very lucky because I enjoy every aspect of my work. I am a happy workaholic! Before I moved to Davis Polk, I had reached a point where I was unsure if competition law was my "thing" anymore – once I joined the team here, it felt as though I was starting my career anew and my passion was reignited. I had always enjoyed the law, but here at Davis Polk I feel a much stronger excitement about it, and that is quite satisfying. I have so many ideas about building this business, and the only problem is that there's too little time in a day to act on them all. I feel like I'm 20 again!

## What advice have you received that has served you well in your career?

**Frances:** Pick the battles that are worth fighting, always utilize bullet points in your writing, and of course, work hard but also make sure to enjoy yourself. I would also say: be open to taking advice from everyone – even the people you wouldn't necessarily expect to receive good advice from.

**Jürgen:** You need to take pride in what you are doing. Good craftsmanship is something that is underestimated in the practice of law. As lawyers we are actually exercising a craft, and having pride in your craft is important. Some people build a beautiful table, and they appreciate it and say, "this is nice, I'm happy with this piece" – just because you write memos or submissions doesn't mean that you can't have pride in your craftsmanship.

## **Frances, tell us about working as a case handler for the Netherlands Competition Authority and the European Commission early in your career.**

I studied economics and decided to do law as my second degree as it was “free” in the Netherlands, where I grew up. My professor asked me whether I would like to work at the European Commission. I had no idea what competition law was, but I decided it was time to take a break from Amsterdam and try living somewhere new, so I thought “why not!” That’s how my career started – it was a bit of a fluke. I had an amazing time at the European Commission working on the new policy for vertical agreements. I later moved to the Dutch competition authority for the start-up phase, but I missed Brussels too much, so I moved back and went into private practice.

## **Jürgen, where are you originally from? How did you end up in Brussels practicing law?**

I’m originally from a tiny village (with a population of 250) in Bavaria, the southern part of Germany. I always liked anything that had to do with history, geography, culture and foreign languages. As a student I studied foreign languages and wanted to become a diplomat. Coming from a tiny village like where I grew up, that was not a normal thing. I joke that in my pursuit, I became a lawyer by accident. I didn’t think I’d be doing it for long. In fact, when I started in Brussels, I thought I’d be here for a year, and it’s now been almost 24 years. It was a good accident!

## **Jürgen, during your legal studies, you did a two-month internship at the Kentucky Supreme Court. This appears unique in your career course.**

After I finished high school in Germany, I wanted to spend a year in the United States before starting university. It was

1991, so there weren’t many exchange programs at that time, and with no internet and no email, it was difficult to find a place to go. Through my English teacher’s wife, I was connected to a small Catholic college in Owensboro, Kentucky – literally in the middle of nowhere – run by Ursuline sisters. I ended up studying there for a year; it was a tough adjustment and a true culture shock, but I really liked it, and I view it as one of those key moments in my life that led me to where I am now. I’ve stayed in contact with the college (now Brescia University), and I still visit some of the nuns. One recently turned 90 years old, so I surprised her – I flew over to Kentucky and took her out to her favorite Kentucky BBQ restaurant to celebrate.

After my year studying at Brescia College, I came back regularly and during one of these visits I did a short internship in the Supreme Court of Kentucky. My time in Kentucky was brilliant – it taught me gratitude and humility.

## **What should people know about Brussels? Is there anything someone new to the city should see or do?**

**Frances:** Brussels has been relatively unscathed by the development and gentrification that has changed the vibe of many major European cities – as a result, it’s more vibrant and unique in my opinion. There’s an ever-present contrast between beauty and ugliness, I think more-so than in any other city in the world, and that’s what makes it so interesting. It’s not obviously easy to navigate as a more touristy city is, so you need to be patient.

**Jürgen:** Brussels is small for a European capital city, but it is probably one of Europe’s most international cities – you can meet people from every corner of the world. In that sense it’s a mini version of New York! It has a great history, great culture and art scene and a very lively bar and beer culture. Another beauty of Brussels, in addition to chocolates and waffles, is that it is so easily connected by train to other major cities, like Amsterdam, Paris and London.

## **Back to the beer – Jürgen, could you point the Davis Polk community to any favorite breweries?**

Right in the center of the city, behind La Grand-Place, which is a UNESCO cultural heritage site, there is the newly opened beer museum in the old stock exchange. It’s a great museum – it has all different beers from across Belgium and each brand of beer has its own specifically designed glass. Belgium has over 400 breweries, with more kinds of beer than anywhere else in the world. A nice Brussels brewery is Cantillon. They brew a special lambic beer that is only produced in Brussels though fermentation with airborne wild yeast.

## **Any final thoughts?**

**Frances:** This year was a rollercoaster, with the excitement of the launch and all the preparation work needed to establish this office. I’m really looking forward to 2024 – it feels like we are now ready for the journey ahead and to get to work.

**Jürgen:** Once you’ve been very successful in one place, you need a bit of courage to start from scratch again somewhere new – I mean this both in reference to Davis Polk launching in a new city and to us personally in this next career step. We are glad to get to do this together, having been friends since we started as lawyers in Brussels two decades ago. We are a great team and are so excited about this new journey with Davis Polk.





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Read more  
spotlights:  
[davispolkalumni.com](https://davispolkalumni.com)

**This year, we featured 18 Davis Polk alumni and their current work across all sectors of business, government, law and academia. These engaging conversations can be read in full on our Alumni Network website.**

### Nancy Ludmerer



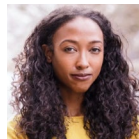
**Nancy Ludmerer ('82)**  
Award-winning writer

Since retiring from an extensive career in law, which included 33 years with Davis Polk's Litigation practice, Nancy has focused on her long-held passion for creative writing. She has authored over 75 published stories and other works, among them many award-winners; her debut fiction collection, *Collateral Damage: 48 Stories*, was published last year and awarded the publisher's 2022 fiction prize.

### Black History Month



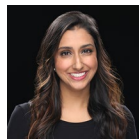
**Uzo Asonye**  
Partner, White Collar Defense  
& Investigations at Davis Polk



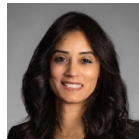
**Stephanie Dorsey ('17)**  
Co-Founder & Managing  
Partner of E<sup>2</sup>JDJ

Uzo and Stephanie discussed their respective careers and experiences as Black lawyers. Uzo, a seasoned trial lawyer, spent more than a decade investigating and prosecuting complex financial and public corruption cases before joining Davis Polk as a partner in 2020. Stephanie co-founded a venture capital firm that backs entrepreneurs leveraging technology to innovate food production and create sustainable food systems.

### Women's History Month



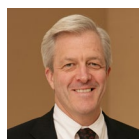
**Roshni Banker Cariello**  
Partner, Capital Markets at  
Davis Polk



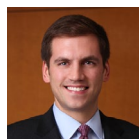
**Prabha Sipi Bhandari ('97)**  
SVP, Deputy General Counsel  
& Corporate Secretary at AIG

Roshni and Prabha discussed their careers, their work in supporting women in the legal profession and what Women's History Month means to them. Roshni reflected on building her career at Davis Polk and the importance of carving out community in the workplace. Sipi reflected on her transition to in-house practice and the relationships and skills that have served her well in roles at Viacom, Deutsche Bank, Freddie Mac and now AIG.

### Free and Fair Litigation Group



**Carey Dunne ('87)**  
Founding Principal of Free  
and Fair Litigation Group



**Kevin Trowel ('09)**  
Principal of Free and Fair  
Litigation Group

Carey and Kevin discussed their time at Davis Polk, their paths to public service and their work on matters that have the potential to create new case law that bolsters democracy. Their recently established pro bono law firm, the Free and Fair Litigation Group, is collaborating with Davis Polk on one such case, which is featured on page 27 of this publication.



## Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month

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**Ashok Ramani**  
Partner, Head of IP Litigation  
at Davis Polk

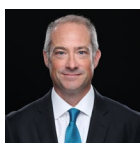
For our Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month feature, Ashok and Arif discussed their career paths and what both diversity and their own heritages mean to them.



**Arif Dhillia (MP, '14)**  
Associate General Counsel  
at Meta

## Pride Month

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**Patrick Sinclair**  
Partner, White Collar Defense  
& Investigations at Davis Polk

In this special Pride Month feature, Patrick reflected on his career, which has included public service and private practice in New York and Hong Kong, and Elina reflected on her time at Davis Polk and the transition to in-house work. Among discussion of their career highlights and other topics, they shared their experiences with mentorship and what Pride Month means to them.



**Elina Khodorkovsky ('14)**  
VP, Tax Planning & Senior  
Counsel at LVMH

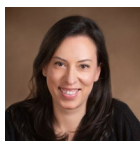
## National Hispanic Heritage Month

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**Tatiana Martins**  
Partner, White Collar Defense  
& Investigations at Davis Polk

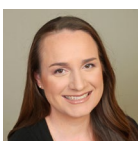
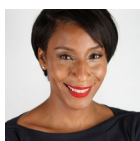
Tatiana and Rosa discussed their career paths, what inspired them to make certain transitions and their time at Davis Polk. They also share a common interest and commitment to giving back: Rosa established The Times' first-ever legal internship for law students, and Tatiana volunteered with the International Organization for Migration to awareness of HIV and AIDS in Mozambique.



**Rosa Neel ('07)**  
Counsel at the New York  
Times Company

## Alumnae on the rise

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In conjunction with Davis Polk's 2023 Alumnae Reception, we caught up with five alumnae now working in the United States, Japan and England. They reflected on their careers, their time at Davis Polk, the career advice that has served them well and their favorite parts of their current roles.

From left to right:

**Sharon Crane ('02)**  
President of the Practising Law Institute

**Mhairi Immermann ('11)**  
Director, Distribution & Commercial  
Partnerships at Warner Bros. Discovery

**Yuko Masunaga ('11)**  
Managing Director, Investor Relations &  
Sustainability at ORIX Corporation

**Catheryn O'Rourke ('02)**  
General Counsel & Company Secretary  
at Reckitt

**Judith Vale ('08)**  
Deputy Solicitor General at the Office of  
the New York State Attorney General





# A conversation with Lisa Giglio Connor

Davis Polk Revisited is a year-long reentry program for former Davis Polk lawyers who have taken a break from the legal profession and wish to return to full-time legal careers.

Lisa Giglio Connor first joined the firm in 1997 and worked in our M&A, Finance and Capital Markets practices until 2003. After returning to New York to complete the Revisited program as part of the class of 2021, she has permanently joined our Derivatives & Structured Products practice as an associate.

## Davis Polk Revisited

### Why did you decide to apply to the Revisited program?

The most immediate impetus for me was the pandemic and the urge to shake things up after it, but I'd been drawn to the Revisited program since it was first announced in 2016. I had never intended to stay away from practicing law for so long – I was just really enjoying being home with my kids and the other things I worked on during those years. When I thought about going back to the law, I knew I had a lot to offer and could pick anything up given the opportunity, but wasn't sure who would give me that chance. I really appreciated that with the Revisited program, the track record I'd laid down at the start of my career counted for something, plus I'd be returning to a place I knew and work I'd enjoyed in the past. There was also a sense of serendipity about it all – notices from Davis Polk inviting applications arrived at very specific moments when I was thinking about transitions – which kept me moving forward through the moments of doubt and the challenge of relocating to New York.

### Was there anything that surprised you in returning to law practice?

There were certainly things that had changed, but those changes were consonant with the changes that had happened everywhere else in the intervening years. More technology, more speed, much less paper. It was a pleasant surprise to feel how easily the “legal muscles” woke up, and to find that the training from my very first years at Davis Polk is still there, forming a foundation.

### What do you enjoy about the practice of law / your practice area?

I feel very at home practicing law. I like the mode of work – the analysis and attention to detail, careful drafting and close review, the balance of quiet work and talking. I like the range of questions corporate clients raise, seeing what matters to them and getting a view into their businesses. What most makes the job fun for me, though, is being part of a team and getting to bat questions around with people who care about the same things. I've also always loved that I get to play with numbers in my derivatives practice, so the little bits of math I get to do make me happy.



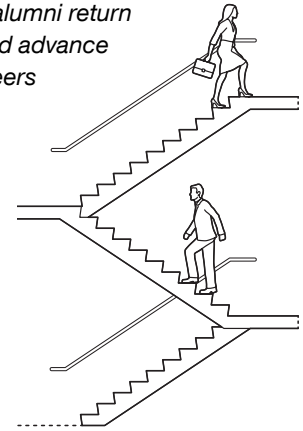
## What advice would you give someone who is considering applying to the Revisited program or returning to law?

Trust yourself, trust that the muscles are still there, and that the things that you've done during your time away from the law will prove to be valuable, too. Keep paddling through the initial cold-water shock of return. What's so helpful about the Revisited program is that nothing is assumed because you're in training alongside the first years who have just graduated from law school. Soon enough, things do come back – the hard and soft skills, what it is to be a lawyer in this sort of practice – and confidence builds. Having a coach and a cohort of fellow Revisited participants to process the challenges with is priceless.

## Tell us about yourself outside of work.

My first year back in New York, I felt like I had to explore all the corners of the city, but these days with a free weekend and nice weather, I'm usually plotting an outing somewhere in New England – hiking, farmstands, windy roads. I did a lot of writing before I came back to practicing law, and I try to keep my hand in that, with the occasional workshop and Zoom meet-ups with longstanding writing groups. My husband is a film professor at the University of Southern California, working on the interplay of art and industry in contemporary Hollywood (check out his column, "City of Industry," in the *L.A. Review of Books*).

*Helping alumni return to law and advance their careers*



## Congratulations to Tanaya Apte from the class of 2022 for successfully completing the Revisited program, and welcome to Natalie Thomas – our 2023 participant!



**Tanaya** has permanently joined our legal services team supporting the Structured Products team in New York.



**Natalie** recently joined our Washington DC office and is focusing on client and practice development.



Read about more moves in our community: [davispolk.com](https://davispolk.com)

## Alumni on the move

### New York



#### Lucy Fato

Promoted to Vice Chair, AIG

Lucy spent 14 years at Davis Polk after joining in 1991, most recently as a Capital Markets partner in New York.

### California

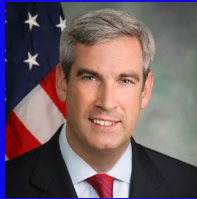


#### Caroline Perry

Promoted to Chief Operating Officer, San Diego Padres

Caroline was an associate based in Davis Polk's Northern California office beginning in 2008.

### Washington DC



#### Neil MacBride

Appointed to the Council of the Administrative Conference of the United States

Neil is currently General Counsel of the U.S. Treasury. He served as partner for eight years, including as head of Davis Polk's DC office and co-head of our White Collar Defense & Investigations practice.



#### Ian Richardson

Appointed Chief Counsel for Corporate Enforcement, U.S. Department of Justice

Ian was an associate based in Davis Polk's New York office beginning in 2009.

## Alumni publications



#### Nancy Ludmerer ('82)

##### Sarra Copia: A Locked-in Life

October 24

Historical fiction about a Jewish woman poet in Renaissance-era Venice forced to live in the ghetto, and her quest for intellectual freedom.

[nancydudmerer.com](https://nancydudmerer.com)



#### Kathy Strobos ('96)

##### My Boyfriend Book

August 10

A feel-good enemies-to-lovers romantic comedy.

##### Love Is an Art

October 10

A fake-identity romantic comedy.

[books.kathystrobos.com](https://books.kathystrobos.com)



**Read more** about the ways Davis Polk is contributing to gun violence prevention efforts on page 11 of [Pro Bono Matters 2023](#).



## In this year’s issue of Pro Bono Matters, we highlighted the U.S. gun violence crisis and the ways in which Davis Polk is joining forces with organizations working to end preventable loss of life through legal action.

One of these featured collaborations is with the **Free and Fair Litigation Group**, founded by Davis Polk alum **Carey Dunne** (NY, '87). Carey and fellow Free and Fair principal **Kevin Trowel** (NY, '09) are working with Davis Polk Civil Litigation partner **Tony Perez-Marques**, Antitrust & Competition counsel **Chris Lynch**, Civil Litigation counsel **Jim Windels** and others in defense of Boulder County, the cities of Boulder and Louisville and the town of Superior, which all passed restrictions on the ownership and sale of “assault weapons” and “large capacity magazines.” These safety measures are currently being challenged in *Rocky Mountain Gun Owners et al. v. The Town of Superior et al.* before the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado.

**Pro Bono**



**Pro Bono Matters** is Davis Polk’s annual review of the past year’s pro bono highlights. Click below to read more about the extraordinary work our lawyers, business services professionals, alumni and clients are doing to help people in need.

**Other 2023 highlights include:**

- Helping a nonprofit that went viral on social media manage the flood of donations that followed
- Fighting voter suppression

Read [Pro Bono Matters 2023](#)



# Awards and accomplishments

## This year 13 lawyers were elected partners of the firm:

**Shanu Bajaj** (Mergers & Acquisitions), **Sidney Bashago** (White Collar Defense & Investigations), **Stephen Byeff** (Capital Markets), **Sijia Cai** (Investment Management), **Hillary Coleman** (Capital Markets), **Christian Fischer** (Restructuring), **Dominic Foulkes** (Tax), **Phoebe Jin** (Finance), **Chris Kodama** (Corporate), **Jack Orford** (Sponsor Finance), **Robert Smith** (Sponsor Finance), **Sanders Witkow** (Finance) and **Lijun (Annie) Yan** (Corporate).  
 Read more: [davispolk.com/2023partners](https://davispolk.com/2023partners)

We were also delighted to welcome partners **James Dougherty** (Mergers & Acquisitions), **Thomas Malone** (Mergers & Acquisitions), **David Penna** (Finance), **David Portilla** (Financial Institutions) and **Jürgen Schindler** (Antitrust & Competition) as members of the firm this year.

## This year 35 lawyers were promoted to counsel:

**Dana Bayersdorfer** (Financial Institutions), **Jillian Berman** (Pro Bono), **Kathryn Bi** (IP Litigation), **Michael Brasher** (Investment Management), **Dylan Consla** (Restructuring), **Charlotte Fabiani** (Executive Compensation), **Kyle Gazis** (White Collar Defense & Investigations), **Sarah Hylton** (Finance), **David Kennedy** (Finance), **Beth LeBow** (Corporate), **Yixuan Long** (Tax), **Diane Lucas** (Pro Bono), **Jackie Marino** (Capital Markets), **Stephanie Massman** (Restructuring), **Ben Miller** (Antitrust & Competition), **Gregory Morrison** (Antitrust & Competition), **Jennifer Ng** (Corporate), **Tierney O'Rourke** (Corporate), **Jason Palios** (Finance), **Jonah Peppiatt** (Restructuring), **Michael Pera** (Restructuring), **Paula Querol** (Corporate), **Cristina Rincon** (Civil Litigation), **Leon Salkin** (Investment Management), **Chihiro Sasaki** (Corporate), **Michael Senders** (Mergers & Acquisitions), **Alexander Simmonds** (Corporate), **Michael Stromquist** (Capital Markets), **Bernard Tsepelman** (Finance), **Joze Vranicar** (Capital Markets), **Nik Williams** (Civil Litigation), **Chris Woller** (IP, Tech & Commercial Transactions), **Daisy Wu** (Mergers & Acquisitions), **Jenny Yin** (Corporate) and **Liang Zhang** (Tax).

## Some of the numerous honors the firm and our practices were recognized with this year include:

### Practice Group of the Year: Fintech

– *Law360*

### “Team of the Year” in Equity and Financial Services Regulatory

– *IFLR Americas Awards*

### Banking Law Firm of the Year

– *Chambers USA*

### GIR 30

– *Global Investigations Review*

### “Litigation Department of the Year” finalist

– *New York Law Journal*

## We were also honored for our continued leadership in DEI:

### “Best Firm for U.S. – Northeast” and “Career Development International Firm”

– *Euromoney Women in Business Law Awards*

### Industry Leader Diversity Award

– *Lawyers of Color*

### Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Honor Roll

– *Exelon*





**Alison B. Hornstein**  
Senior Manager,  
Career Development

## Strategic coaching for every stage in your career

Davis Polk’s Career Development program is run by Alison Hornstein, a certified professional coach who provides confidential one-on-one support, feedback and advice to our lawyers and alumni as they think through, chart and pursue their career trajectories. Alison was previously Director & Senior Career Counselor at Yale Law School’s Career Development Office, where she oversaw all alumni career counseling and directly advised thousands of alums and students on job searches and career transitions in both the private and public sectors. Her legal background includes working as a litigation associate at Simpson Thacher and as a federal law clerk.

Conversations with Alison cover an array of topics, including:

- Gaining clarity on what you value, enjoy and want in a career going forward
- Strategizing about how to best position yourself for a role you’d like to work toward in the future
- Identifying your key skills and how they may transfer across industries or roles
- Exploring potential career, industry, practice area and geographic pivots
- Customizing a focused job search and networking strategy
- Learning how to utilize Davis Polk’s many resources as well as job search and networking tools
- Discussing whether, how and when to work with recruiters
- Practicing pitching yourself in a compelling manner
- Feedback on your resume, cover letter and other application materials
- Interview preparation, practice interviews and feedback, and support navigating the “offer stage”

**If you would like to schedule a session with Alison or learn more about these services, please email her at [alison.hornstein@davispolk.com](mailto:alison.hornstein@davispolk.com).**

### Recent alumni testimonials

**“I greatly valued having a professional – who was aware of the demands of my work and familiar with much of the relevant context – to talk to when I was encountering moments of greater challenge in my career... the DPW career coaching team makes it easy to feel safe, listened to and supported.”**

**“It is extremely worthwhile and a tremendous service to have on offer.”**

**“[My career coach] helped me think through the best next step for my career and prepare for interviews. I got the job I wanted and am very happy with the outcome.”**

**“This service is very helpful in terms of talking through career objectives, possible roles, networking, utilization of online job boards, resume review and other items.”**



Find CLE/CPD offerings and view Alumni benefits: [davispolkalumni.com](https://davispolkalumni.com)

## CLE offerings

We offer free CLE credit to alumni. In addition to segments created by Davis Polk, we offer content from the Practicing Law Institute (PLI) featuring Davis Polk partners.

To access these segments and other CLE resources, please visit the CLE/CPD offerings page on the Alumni Network website. New material becomes available regularly, so be sure to check in on our updated offerings throughout the year.

Our most recent offering is:

- Executive compensation considerations for the pre-IPO company (NY: 1.0 Professional Practice; CA: 1.0 General)

We would also be happy to create Davis Polk partner-led CLE programming on the topics most useful to your team or company. For more information, please reach out to us at [alumni@davispolk.com](mailto:alumni@davispolk.com).

## Alumni discounts and memberships

A wide variety of valuable benefits are available to Davis Polk alumni. Visit the Alumni Network website to explore all our offerings.

### Banking





### Recreation/ Entertainment




### Cultural




### Real Estate



### Shopping





### Travel





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**Please stay in touch!**

To keep your information up-to-date and stay connected to all of our resources and happenings, please visit our website or email us at [alumni@davispolk.com](mailto:alumni@davispolk.com)

We also invite you to join us on LinkedIn in the Davis Polk Alumni group.

## Alumni partners



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## Alumni team



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**Our team**



# Davis Polk