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Dauphin County Bar Association, Capital Area Managing Partners Celebrate 10 Years of Diversity Internship Program

Internship program promotes diversity, champions local workforce development

HARRISBURG, Pa. (Aug. 6, 2015)– The Dauphin County Bar Association (DCBA) and Capital Area Managing Partners (CAMP) are celebrating 10 years of success in their diversity internship program. For rising first-year law students, the program promotes diversity in the legal community and champions local workforce development.

“We have a wealth of law schools in the capital area that draw the best and brightest from throughout the country and abroad,” said Elizabeth Simcox, executive director of DCBA. “This internship program makes great strides in attracting and keeping our young professionals in Central Pennsylvania long after they graduate.”

The internship program began in the summer of 2006, to provide professional development to minority students. The program pairs qualified, first-year law students with Central Pennsylvania law firms for an eight-week stipend internship and offers several professional development seminars. Many internships lead students to further opportunities within their sponsoring firms, including full-time employment following graduation.

Julia Coelho, an inaugural program participant, now practices in the health care law and the corporate and tax practice groups with her former internship provider, McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC. Coelho, originally from Brazil, has stayed involved in the program to help new interns achieve their goals.

“My internship experience introduced me to a welcoming community,” Coelho said. “The CAMP program makes the community stronger. It motivates and attracts a more diverse pool of lawyers in the Harrisburg area. Diversity benefits us all.”

Rachel Hadrick, a 2011 program participant, also completed her internship with McNees and is now a litigation attorney with the firm.

“My CAMP internship was a major factor in my choice to stay in Harrisburg,” Hadrick said. “The internship allowed me to explore areas of law that I hadn’t considered for my career and introduced me to a firm that I am very proud to be a part of today.”

McNees Wallace & Nurick has held an active leadership role in the internship program since Day One.



“We’re proud to be a part of the CAMP diversity internship program,” said McNees chairman, David M. Kleppinger. “Supporting a diverse working culture is one of our core principles. The CAMP internship has been a clear success in providing meaningful and productive summer experiences to first-year students.”

More than 120 students have participated in the program. This year’s participants included students from across the United States, China, Germany and St. Lucia, who attend capital-area law schools.

The CAMP Diversity Initiative was created by the Equal Professional Opportunity Committee of the Dauphin County Bar Association in 2004. This organization is dedicated to the goal of significantly increasing the number of minority lawyers who practice in the capital region.

About Dauphin County Bar Association

The Dauphin County Bar Association (DCBA) is a professional organization with more than 1,450 lawyers actively engaged in programs of public service, professional development and personal interaction. The association works to improve the legal profession, the administration of justice and the lives of Dauphin County citizens. To learn more, visit www.dcba-pa.org.

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