Paul Weiss

What's New @ Paul, Weiss

We are pleased to share the latest news with you about our firm, including our virtual summer program; some of our recent pro bono, racial justice and inclusion initiatives; and some highlights of our work on behalf of our clients.

Virtual Summer Program

This year we are welcoming 129 1L and 2L summer associates to our virtual 2021 Summer Program. Summer associates will experience all facets of an in-person summer program including working with our attorneys on critical matters, participating in a robust training curriculum, engaging in networking and mentoring opportunities, and interacting with clients. In addition, our summer associates will enjoy social events such as trivia, murder mystery, paint & sip, mixology and an exclusive performance from an Emmy Award-winning mentalist magician.

Paul Weiss Summer Program

Pro Bono

Our lawyers stepped up during this past year of unprecedented need and urgent societal challenges—earning a top-10 ranking in *The American* Lawyer's "Pro Bono Scorecard." Some of our most recent initiatives include:

- Voting Rights: Paul, Weiss organized a coalition of most of the nation's largest law firms in April 2021 to condemn restrictive state voting provisions, and is coordinating with a core group of these firms to challenge such legislation, working alongside the Brennan Center for Justice. This follows a busy year of high-impact voting rights cases in 2020, with Paul, Weiss filing numerous high-impact voting rights challenges in Michigan, Missouri, North <u>Carolina</u>, <u>New York</u> and <u>Puerto Rico</u>, and reproductive rights challenges in Mississippi and Louisiana, among other jurisdictions.
- Litigations Against Extremist Groups: Paul, Weiss is almost alone nationally in bringing private litigation against extremist groups to hold them and their leaders accountable for their actions, including in major lawsuits in Charlottesville, Virgina and Washington, D.C.
- Family Separation: The firm continues to lead efforts to reunify families separated by the previous administration at the U.S.-Mexico border as chair of a court-ordered committee in the national ACLU class action on behalf of separated parents.
- COVID-19 Relief: In March 2020, <u>hundreds of our lawyers worked together</u> to create the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Relief Center, an online database of the most up-to-date information on federal, state, local and charitable COVID-19 relief programs—the firm's largest pro bono campaign to date—to support the millions economically devastated by the pandemic. Additionally, through individual representations, class actions and amicus briefs, the firm secured the release of scores of inmates and immigration detainees at high risk of serious illness if they contract COVID-19.



Racial Justice

Since June 2020, when our firm responded immediately to the murder of George Floyd and to the subsequent national protests calling for racial justice, Paul, Weiss has been at the forefront of racial justice and racial equity initiatives, both within the firm and in our public engagement in the issue:

- Economic Empowerment: In partnership with our Black Lawyers Network, we are expanding opportunities for our lawyers to engage in grassroots racial justice efforts and creating new opportunities for our transactional attorneys to support community and economic development for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People Of Color) entrepreneurs and BIPOC-owned businesses.
- Anti-Asian Hate: Paul, Weiss, in collaboration with the Asian American Bar Association of New York (AABANY), in February 2021 published an influential report on the rise in bias and violence against the Asian American community in the New York City region. The report presents data that shows the increase of anti-Asian hate incidents in the New York City region and assesses actions taken by politicians, law enforcement and community organizations to address these occurrences.
- Police Conduct and Institutional Racism: Former U.S. Attorney General and Paul, Weiss litigation partner Loretta Lynch joined the New York state investigation into police conduct during protests in June 2020, and led an <u>independent review</u> of the Syracuse University Department of Public Safety following campus protests. Meanwhile, former Secretary of Homeland Security and Paul, Weiss litigation partner Jeh Johnson led the Commission on Equal Justice in the Courts in reviewing <u>institutional racism in the state court</u> system, issuing an eye-opening report in October with recommendations that N.Y. Chief Judge DiFiore has pledged to implement.



Inclusion

In 2020, we launched a series of innovative, impactful changes—prompting Yale Law Women to recognize us as a "Top Firm for Inclusion Initiatives" and the Financial Times to recognize us for innovation in our diversity, equity and inclusion efforts throughout the year. Initiatives include:

- Colleague Connect Circles: A unique mentorship program that creates small groups of associates, counsel and partners who meet regularly to build professional and social relationships.
- Enhanced Benefits: Market-leading parental and family formation benefits to make the experience of all our lawyers more inclusive and more rewarding.
- Deploying Technology to Level the Playing Field: Online dashboards that allow partners to track matter staffing, career dashboards to help associates navigate their professional development, and AI analytics that flag unconscious bias in performance reviews.



Helping Our Clients

The firm's transactional and litigation practices have all been extremely busy.

- During a period when we are all working remotely, the firm led several landscape-shifting deals, including General Electric's \$30 billion combination of its aircraft leasing unit with AerCap, Nuance's \$19.7 billion sale to Microsoft, and Quicken Loans' parent Rocket Companies in its \$1.8 billion IPO.
- Despite the shuttering of courtrooms, our litigation team secured a string of victories, including a win for IBM that earned partners Liza Velazguez and Bob Atkins an American Lawyer "Litigators of the Week" recognition, and one of the most important Supreme Court separation-of-powers decisions in years.
- Following the success of our COVID-19 Resource Center, this year we launched the Biden Administration Resource Center, offering timely insights for businesses on the administration's priorities. Some 500 attended a kickoff webinar on the changing policy and regulatory agenda.

