

#CLEOEDGEAWARDS

#CLEOAT56



CLEO EDGE
HONORS RECEPTION
Awards Program

PRESENTED BY



2101 L St., NW, Suite 1000, Washington, D.C. 20037

Thursday, April 11, 2024

Recognizing 4 Outstanding Leaders in

E DUCATION
D IVERSITY &
G RATER
E QUALITY



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COUNCIL ON LEGAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY, INC.

Diverse by design.

From the start, we've believed that diverse viewpoints produce smarter ideas for our clients. That's why we've made diversity, equity, and inclusion integral to our legal services and community support. Because a more diverse world happens only by design.

Greenberg Traurig is proud to support the **2024 CLEO Edge Honors Reception.**

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and the Middle East,
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CLEO EDGE HONORS RECEPTION *Awards Program*

WELCOME	J.C. Polanco
OPENING REMARKS	President and CEO, CLEO, Inc.
ALUMNI TESTIMONIAL	Jeremy Garcia, CLEO Alumnus
CLEO CONNECTION	Rob Falk, Truth Initiative Board Member, CLEO, Inc.
PRESENTATION OF 2024 EDGE AWARD HONOREES & ACCEPTANCE REMARKS	<u>EDUCATION AWARD</u> Presenter – Dominique Moss, CLEO, Inc. Honoree – Rick Petry, Esq. <u>DIVERSITY AWARD</u> Presenter – Elizabeth A. Campbell, Beebe Healthcare Board Chair, CLEO, Inc. Honoree – Hon. Phyllis D. Thompson <u>GREATER EQUALITY AWARD</u> Presenter – Leigh Allen, II, CLEO, Inc. Honoree – Bryan Parker, Esq.
PRESENTATION OF CLEO EDGE Vernon E. Jordan, Jr. Heritage Award & ACCEPTANCE REMARKS	<u>VERNON E. JORDAN, JR. HERITAGE AWARD</u> Presenter – J.C. Polanco, CLEO, Inc. Honoree – Neal Katyal, Esq.
INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER	Elizabeth A. Campbell, Beebe Healthcare
SPECIAL GUEST REMARKS	Hon. Reggie B. Walton, Judge U.S. District Court for D.C.
HOST SPONSOR COMMENTS	Samantha Ahuja, Greenberg Traurig Board Member, CLEO, Inc.
FINAL THOUGHTS	Rachel Okolski, Association of Corporate Counsel Board Member, CLEO, Inc. 2024 Event Committee Chair



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2024 CLEO EDGE AWARD RECIPIENTS!

Greetings.

Welcome and thank you for joining us as we present our 2024 CLEO EDGE Awards!

We are grateful to Greenberg Traurig, LLP – a law firm committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion – for hosting us for a second consecutive year. Thank you, GT!



In addition, as we did for the last EDGE Awards event, we have created a virtual environment so that our CLEO friends and supporters who are not able to join us in person can still celebrate the achievements of the outstanding individuals we are honoring.

The CLEO EDGE Honors Reception & Awards Program is our flagship fundraising event and we thank all of this year's generous sponsors and donors! If you appreciate the benefits of diversity in the legal profession and want to help us advance our Mission "to inspire, motivate, and prepare students from underrepresented communities to succeed in law school and beyond," then please donate to CLEO via this QR Code below or via our website, www.cleoinc.org/donate.

Finally, whether you are with us in person or virtually, we truly hope you enjoy our program this evening as we celebrate Education, Diversity, and Greater Equality in the legal profession! And if you haven't done so already, we encourage you to visit CLEOinc.org to learn more about our other programs and services, and how CLEO can help "amplify" your organization's DEI efforts!

Welcome, again, and congratulations to each of this year's deserving honorees!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Campbell".

Elizabeth A. Campbell, Chair
CLEO, Inc. Board of Directors





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MISSION

To inspire, motivate, and prepare students from underrepresented communities to succeed in law school and beyond.

VISION

That the United States legal profession is truly diverse, equitable, and inclusive and that it effectively balances the scales of liberty and social justice for all.

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VERNON E. JORDAN, JR. HERITAGE AWARD

This special award honors a person who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in Education, Diversity, and Greater Equality in the legal profession and society. After Vernon E. Jordan, Jr. received the inaugural CLEO EDGE Heritage Award during the organization's 50th anniversary in 2018, the award was renamed the CLEO EDGE Vernon E. Jordan, Jr. Heritage Award to honor a man whose life-long commitment to protecting human rights and social justice strongly mirrors CLEO's mission.

When Jordan matriculated at Howard University School of Law in 1957-1960, less than 1% of lawyers in the United States were African American (0.75% according to U.S. Census data). And the scarcity of Native American and Latino lawyers was even more startling. As a practicing civil rights attorney in Atlanta, Georgia, he was one of only 393 African-American lawyers in 10 Southern states. Trained to make a difference in American life, Jordan became a trailblazer in the civil rights movement, joining the NAACP as a Field Director early in his career, working to end discrimination, increase voter registration, and change laws

to support legislation beneficial to the advancement of equality for all Americans. In 1969, he became the first black Fellow of the Institute of Politics at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He later served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Urban League, Inc. and the Executive Director of the United Negro College Fund, Inc. Throughout his lifetime, Jordan broke down numerous barriers, including becoming the first African American to sit on a Fortune 500 company board. After spending much of his life in the civil rights movement, Jordan became a partner at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, LLP, an international law firm and served both Presidents Clinton and Obama in various capacities. He served as a Senior Executive Partner with Akin Gump and a Senior Managing Director of Lazard Frères & Co. LLC in New York.

Jordan (1935-2021) was a graduate of DePauw University and Howard University School of Law, and the author of *Vernon Can Read! A Memoir and Make It Plain, Standing Up and Speaking Out*





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Neal Katyal, Esq.

Partner, Hogan Lovells

Paul Saunders Professor at Georgetown
University - Former Acting Solicitor General
of the United States



VERNON E. JORDAN, JR. HERITAGE AWARD

Congratulations
Neal Katyal

Neal Katyal is the Paul and Patricia Saunders Professor of Law at Georgetown University, a best-selling New York Times author, and a Partner at Hogan Lovells. He previously served as Acting Solicitor General of the United States. He has argued 50 cases before the Supreme Court of the United States. In the most recent 2022-23 Term, he argued 5 separate cases (nearly 10% of the entire docket), including winning the landmark voting case *Moore v. Harper*, which Judge Michael Luttig described as “the most important case for American democracy in the almost two and a half centuries since America’s founding.” His cases include successfully striking down the Guantanamo military tribunals, successfully defending the constitutionality of the Voting Rights Act, successfully defending the Peace Cross in Maryland, and a landmark personal jurisdiction win for *Bristol Meyers Squibb*.

At the age of 53, he has already argued more Supreme Court cases in U.S. history than has any minority attorney, recently breaking the record held by Thurgood Marshall. His numerous distinctions include: the Edmund Randolph Award (the highest civilian award given by U.S. Department of Justice), The Litigator of the Year by American Lawyer (2017 and 2018, chosen as the sole Grand Prize Winner of all the lawyers in the United States), Named one of the 500 Leading Lawyers by LawDragon (one of 4 lawyers so named for every single year since 2005 to 2023); Appellate MVP by Law360 numerous times; winner of Financial Times Innovative Lawyer Award in two different categories (both private and public law) (2017), one of GQ’s Men of the Year (2017), 40 Most Influential Lawyers of the Last Decade Nationwide by National Law Journal (2010), and 90 Greatest Washington Lawyers Over the Last 30 Years by Legal Times (2008). Neal also won the National Law Journal’s pro bono award in 2004. He has appeared on virtually every major American news program, as well as on Stephen Colbert’s Late Show. He has also performed on Netflix’s *House of Cards* and Showtime’s *Billions* (where he played himself in both series).

Congratulations

The CLEO EDGE AWARD

Recognizing **E**ducation, **D**iversity and **G**reater **E**quality In the Legal Profession

Individual EDGE Award Supplemental Information

Lawyers impact every aspect of American life. More than 50 years ago, CLEO's founders recognized the importance of producing a legal profession that mirrors the mosaic of this great nation. Building on the pillars of Education, Diversity, and Greater Equality, they worked together to develop the foundation for a program that would weather many storms over the next half century. The CLEO EDGE Awards honors those individuals, law schools, and organizations that have helped to sustain and expand CLEO's mission through their collective passions toward balancing the scales of justice for all Americans.

EDUCATION – Nelson Mandela said that, *“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”* The Education category winner recognizes and exemplifies this awareness.

DIVERSITY – R. Roosevelt Thomas, Jr. captured the essence of our commitment to a more diverse legal profession in his book, *“Building a House for Diversity.”* The book begins with a fable about a giraffe, who living in a house designed to meet the needs of his tall, slender frame, invites an elephant in for a visit. The elephant unintentionally demolishes the walls and foundation of the giraffe's beautiful home and the fable concludes with the realization that a giraffe house could never accommodate an elephant. In this spirit, CLEO's Diversity honorees understand the importance of “building a house” for diversity and respecting the differences that make each of us who we are.

GREATER EQUALITY – It encompasses a human tapestry; a panorama that includes race, ethnicity, religion, gender, disability, and sexual orientation, in addition to individual choices and preferences. Over the last five decades, the legal profession has played a major role in weaving components, e.g. Civil Rights Act, Equal Pay Act, Women's Movement, Gay Rights Movement, Americans with Disabilities Act, Immigration Movement, towards Greater Equality in America. The Greater Equality honorees are indeed egalitarians who share CLEO's commitment to the equality of all people and have helped advance our society.



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Rick Petry, Esq.

Director, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Mitchell Hamline School of Law



Rick Petry stands at the intersection of law, human peak performance, and neuro-health as an Adjunct Law Professor and Director of DEI at Mitchell Hamline School of Law and Executive Coach with a combined two-plus decades of experience in the legal industry. That experience includes previously serving clients for 17 years as a trial attorney and now in his seventh year and counting serving lawyers and law students as a legal educator.

Rick's impact on the global stage is marked by his engagement with lawyers, law students, executives, and entrepreneurs around the globe, imparting wisdom and practical skills to enhance their professional and personal lives.

Guided by a deep-seated philosophy that leadership is a privilege accompanied by the duty of care, Rick approaches his role with a commitment to quality and compassion. He believes in nurturing the brain's health as a means to empower individuals, fostering an environment where mental acuity and emotional resilience are paramount. His drive to be of service stems from a deep belief in the vastness of human potential. Rick's aim is to instill lasting positive change, guiding individuals to not only thrive in their careers but also to lead richer, more balanced, and fulfilled lives.

Congratulations



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Hon. Phyllis D. Thompson
Senior Judge
District of Columbia Court of Appeals



Phyllis D. Thompson is a Senior Judge on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, to which she was appointed in 2006 by President George W. Bush. She has authored hundreds of decisions for the court, including the en banc decision that held that a proposed voter initiative to outlaw same-sex marriage would have authorized discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and therefore could not appear on the ballot.

Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Thompson was a member of the law firm of Covington & Burling, where she became a partner (the first African-American woman partner) in 1989. At the D.C. Courts, Judge Thompson has served on the Access to Justice Commission and chairs the Standing Committee on Fairness and Access, which during her tenure has focused on issues such as broadening the mix of the jury pool, improving disability access in the courts, and addressing racial equity issues.

In connection with Judge Thompson's role as liaison to the D.C. Courts' Committee on Admissions to the Bar, she served on the Board of Trustees of the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) and for several years chaired NCBE's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, which recommended a number of NCBE initiatives aimed at helping to diversify the legal profession. Judge Thompson recently completed two terms on the Council of the American Bar Association Section on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar, the entity that accredits law schools in the United States.

Congratulations



CLEO EDGE HONORS RECEPTION *Awards Program*

Bryan Parker, Esq.

Co-founder and CEO
Legal Innovators



Co-founder, and CEO of Washington, DC based Legal Innovators, an end-to-end, technology-enabled, talent management solution that has innovated the way in which new attorneys come into the practice of Big Law, and partners with top-tier law firms and corporate legal departments to place lawyers in a 2-year apprenticeship style experience.

With a background in law, finance, and business, Bryan is skilled at managing and leading large companies with hundred million-dollar budgets. Bryan began his career as an M&A attorney at Shearman & Sterling before he continued to take leadership roles in investment banking and entrepreneurship opportunities. Bryan is a frequent speaker on innovation, data and efficiency, mental health and diversity, equity, and inclusion in the practice of Big Law.

Bryan attended the University of California at Berkeley (BA), New York University School of Law (JD), and is now completing (at night) a Master of Divinity degree at Howard University. He is a member of the California and New York Bar Associations.

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PROGRAMS & SERVICES

The CLEO Pre-Law Summer

Institute (PLSI) Since 1968, the pre-eminent residential and online program designed to prepare participants to be more competitive law school students in the following fall.

1L Prep-Attitude is Essential (AIE)

An intensive online, weekend pre-law seminar designed to introduce and prepare participants already accepted into law school for the rigors of law school.

Achieving Success in the Application Process (ASAP)

An intensive weekend pre-law event to help participants develop the tools they need to understand the law school application process and become competitive law school applicants.

CLEO College Scholars Program

One-day structured programs for participants to learn about the law school admission process and be exposed to topics such as mock admissions (Road to Law School), improve analytical and logical reasoning abilities, or discover various LSAT preparation strategies and take a practice LSAT (Jumpstart the LSAT).

CLEO Connection

An evening pre-law workshop series whose participants get answers to questions about law school, create a local network of colleagues and legal professionals, and develop a useful understanding of the legal field.

CLEO Law School Application Services (CLAS)

Services offered by CLEO professionals to help pre-law students with their law school application packet including application, personal statement, and résumé review.

CLEO Legally Inspired Cohort (CLIC)

An innovative program to identify, recruit, and train law school applicants who possess the academic and leadership skills to attend one of three partner schools in a supportive team of five after attending the Pre-Law Summer Institute.

NCBE/CLEO Bar Preparation

This collaboration with the National Conference of Bar Examiners assists CLEO 1Ls, 2Ls, and 3Ls across the country to prepare for and conquer the bar exam.

**For more information,
please visit:**

cleoinc.org/programs

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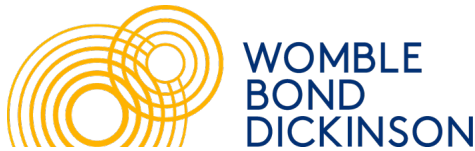
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