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MCCA Announces 2021 Thomas L. Sager Award Winner and Finalists

Washington, D.C. – Today, the Minority Corporate Counsel Association (MCCA) announced the winner, and four finalists, for its 2021 Thomas L. Sager Award (“Sager Award”).

The Sager Award recognizes large Am Law 200 law firms that champion a more diverse and inclusive workforce and demonstrate a sustained commitment to the ongoing work of hiring, retaining, and promoting diverse attorneys. Presented since 1999, the Sager Award is named after former DuPont Senior Vice President and General Counsel Thomas L. Sager, who pioneered strategies to increase diversity that are still used today, from fixed-fee billing to preferred providers. He helped create the DuPont Company Legal Model, an industry benchmark that was recognized as an innovation in the hiring, retaining, and promotion of diverse attorneys.

This year’s Sager winner and finalists were selected using another industry benchmark: MCCA’s Diversity Scorecard, which is based on law firm diversity data across hundreds of law firms and across several years. The Scorecard uses an objective, data-driven methodology to rank and score law firms based on assessments of their demographic, recruitment, attrition, and promotion policies for women and diverse groups, particularly those from underrepresented racial and ethnic backgrounds.

“This year’s finalists and winner met a high bar,” said **Jean Lee, President and CEO of the Minority Corporate Counsel Association**. “Not only did they implement actionable, measurable policies for creating diverse, inclusive, and equitable workplaces, but they also had the courage to share their data and demonstrated accountability to improving further.”

“I commend this year’s finalists and winner for their commitment to the ongoing work of hiring, retaining, and promoting diverse attorneys,” said **Wanji Walcott, Executive Vice President, Chief Legal Officer & General Counsel at Discover Financial Services and MCCA’s Board Chair**. “As someone who works with my fair share of outside counsel, they embody the top qualities I look for in partner firms: a focus on data-driven approaches to diversity, an appreciation for transparency, and an understanding that change doesn’t come without accountability.”



This year's 2021 Sager Award finalists are **Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer U.S. LLP, Jackson Lewis P.C, Littler Mendelson P.C, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich and Rosati**, while this year's 2021 Sager Award winner is **Perkins Coie LLP**.

The 2021 Sager Award winner and finalists will be honored at MCCA's **Virtual Diversity Gala**, hosted on **October 13, 2021**. To register and learn more about these top firms, interested parties can visit [Gala Registration](#).

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The Minority Corporate Counsel Association (MCCA) is the preeminent voice on diversity, equity and inclusion in the legal industry. It was founded in 1997 with a mission to recruit, retain and promote diverse attorneys by publishing research to providing professional development opportunities to offering advisory services. Today, MCCA empowers members with the tools needed to disrupt business as usual – and to blaze a path forward for their company, industry and corporate America.