

Davidson, Meaux, Sonnier, McElligott, Fontenot, Gideon & Edwards, LLP

2012 VAULT/MCCA LAW FIRM DIVERSITY SURVEY

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LOCATIONS

Lafayette, LA

DIVERSITY LEADERSHIP

Head(s) of Firm: James J. Davidson, III, Equity Partner; John E. McElligott, Jr., Equity Partner; Philip A. Fontenot, Relationship Partner

Diversity team leader(s): Philip A. Fontenot, Relationship Partner; John E. McElligott, Jr., Equity Partner

NUMBER OF ATTORNEYS

TOTAL NUMBER OF ATTORNEYS

	Currently	As of December 31, 2011
Firmwide	12	12
U.S. offices only	12	12

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2012 VAULT/MCCA LAW FIRM DIVERSITY SURVEY

Law Firm Demographic Profile

Does your firm have more than one tier of partnership?

No

ASSOCIATES (2011)

	Men	Women
White/Caucasian	2	1
African-American/Black	0	1
Hispanic/Latino	0	0
Alaska Native/American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0
Multiracial	0	0
Openly GLBT	0	0
Attorneys with disabilities	0	0
Total	2	2

SUMMER ASSOCIATES (2011)

	Men	Women
White/Caucasian	0	0
African-American/Black	0	0
Hispanic/Latino	0	0
Alaska Native/American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0
Multiracial	0	0
Openly GLBT	0	0
Attorneys with disabilities	0	0
Total	0	0

EQUITY PARTNERS (2011)

	Men	Women
White/Caucasian	8	0
African-American/Black	0	0
Hispanic/Latino	0	0
Alaska Native/American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0
Multiracial	0	0
Openly GLBT	0	0
Attorneys with disabilities	0	0
Total	8	0

NON-EQUITY PARTNERS (2011)

	Men	Women
White/Caucasian	n/a	n/a
African-American/Black	n/a	n/a
Hispanic/Latino	n/a	n/a
Alaska Native/American Indian	n/a	n/a
Asian	n/a	n/a
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	n/a	n/a
Multiracial	n/a	n/a
Openly GLBT	n/a	n/a
Attorneys with disabilities	n/a	n/a
Total	n/a	n/a

OF COUNSEL (2011)

	Men	Women
White/Caucasian	2	0
African-American/Black	0	0
Hispanic/Latino	0	0
Alaska Native/American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0
Multiracial	0	0
Openly GLBT	0	0
Attorneys with disabilities	0	0
Total	2	0

NEW HIRES (2011)

	Men	Women
White/Caucasian	1	1
African-American/Black	0	0
Hispanic/Latino	0	0
Alaska Native/American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0
Multiracial	0	0
Openly GLBT	0	0
Attorneys with disabilities	0	0
Total	1	1

How does the firm's leadership communicate the importance of diversity to everyone at the firm?

Wal-Mart regularly sends emails with articles on diversity. These emails are sent throughout the office for attorneys to read.

Who has primary responsibility for leading diversity initiatives at your firm?

Philip A. Fontenot, Equity Partner/Relationship Partner

Does your law firm currently have a diversity committee?

Yes

If yes, does the committee's representation include one or more members of the firm's management/executive committee (or equivalent)?

Yes

If yes, how many attorneys are on the committee, and in 2011, what was the total number of hours collectively spent by the committee in the furtherance of the firm's diversity initiatives?

Total attorneys on committee: 3

Total hours spent on diversity: 10

Does the committee and/or diversity leader establish and set goals or objectives consistent with management's priorities?

Yes

Has the firm undertaken a formal or informal diversity program or set of initiatives aimed at increasing the diversity of the firm?

Yes

If yes, is it formal or informal?

Informal

How often does the firm's management review the firm's diversity progress/results?

Twice a year

How is the firm's diversity committee and/or firm management held accountable for achieving results?

Each Fall, a firm review is made to look at the hiring practice of the firm to determine if a real effort is being made to hire more minorities and women in the firm.

Is your firm minority-owned or women-owned?

No



INITIATIVES FOR ALL DIVERSE ATTORNEYS

Already Completed	Currently Addressing	Not a Current Priority	
X			Undertake communication from firm management that diversity is a top priority of the firm
X			Formalize diversity plan and committee with action steps and accountability to management
	X		Conduct firmwide diversity training for all attorneys and staff
X			Focus on strengthening firm's mentoring program
X			Conduct internal diversity needs assessment (e.g., culture and environment surveys) and/or retain diversity consultant to examine how firm culture might be more welcoming of minorities
X			Support law firm's internal affinity networks
	X		Hire a director of diversity or other full-time professional to implement the firm's diversity program
X			Coordinate or work with clients on diversity issues
	X		Develop/expand relationships with minority bar associations and other legal diversity organizations to offer firm's support of these networks



INITIATIVES SPECIFICALLY FOR MINORITY ATTORNEYS

Already Completed	Currently Addressing	Not a Current Priority	
X			Increase the number of minority attorneys at the associate level
X			Increase the number of minority attorneys at the partnership level
X			Increase the number of minority attorneys in leadership positions
X			Focus on strengthening firm's mentoring program for minority attorneys
X			Manage/monitor allocation of work assignments and/or hours billed to ensure minority attorneys have equal access/inclusion on top client matters

INITIATIVES SPECIFICALLY FOR WOMEN ATTORNEYS

Already Completed	Currently Addressing	Not a Current Priority	
X			Institute a formal part-time policy that addresses partnership prospects
X			Increase the number of women at the associate level
X			Increase the number of women at the partnership level
X			Increase the number of women in leadership positions
X			Focus on strengthening firm's mentoring program for women
X			Manage/monitor allocation of work assignments and/or hours billed to ensure women have equal access/inclusion to top client matters



INITIATIVES SPECIFICALLY FOR OPENLY GLBT ATTORNEYS

Already Completed	Currently Addressing	Not a Current Priority	
	X		Offer same-sex domestic partners the same benefits available to married individuals
	X		Increase the number of GLBT attorneys at the associate level
	X		Increase the number of GLBT attorneys at the partnership level
	X		Increase the number of GLBT attorneys in leadership positions
	X		Ensure that EEO and non-discrimination policies specifically address gender identity

INITIATIVES SPECIFICALLY FOR ATTORNEYS WITH DISABILITIES

Already Completed	Currently Addressing	Not a Current Priority	
	X		Increase the number of attorneys with disabilities at the associate level
	X		Increase the number of attorneys with disabilities at the partnership level
	X		Increase the number of attorneys with disabilities in leadership positions
	X		Ensure that EEO and non-discrimination policies specifically address individuals with disabilities



Pipeline Initiatives

Does your firm actively engage in initiatives to feed the diversity pipeline by encouraging minority students to consider law as a career and/or assisting them in pursuing such opportunities?

- Participate in established pipeline programs, such as SEO, Legal Outreach, Prep for Prep or Street Law
- Fund scholarships for minority high school or college students
- Mentor high school or college students
- Participate in or host mock trial programs or career events
- Provide internships or employment to minority high school or college students
- Outreach to middle school students

Please discuss any additional efforts to reach out to diverse undergraduates, high school, middle school or grade school students.

[No response]



Recruitment - New Associates

Does your firm annually recruit at any of the following types of institutions?

Ivy League schools: None

Other private schools: Tulane University - New Orleans; Loyola University - New Orleans

Public state schools: Louisiana State University - Baton Rouge; Southern University - Baton Rouge

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs): We regularly interview at Southern University Law School and hired an African American female graduate of Southern University. We also hired in the past an associate who went to Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia.

Diversity job fairs: None

Do you have any special outreach efforts directed to encourage minority law students to consider your firm?

- Hold a reception for minority students
- Advertise in minority law student association publications
- Participate in or host minority law student job fairs
- Sponsor minority law student association events
- Firm lawyers participate on career panels at schools
- Outreach to leadership of minority student organizations
- Scholarships or intern/fellowships for minority students
- Other (please specify)

Do you have any programs specifically targeted at first-year students?

Our firm hires first-year law students at times for Summer clerkships.



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2012 VAULT/MCCA LAW FIRM DIVERSITY SURVEY

Recruitment - New Associates

ALL 2L SUMMER ASSOCIATES (2011)

	Men	Women
White/Caucasian	0	0
African-American/Black	0	0
Hispanic/Latino	0	0
Alaska Native/American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0
Multiracial	0	0
Openly GLBT	0	0
Attorneys with disabilities	0	0
Total	0	0

OFFERS MADE* (2011)

* Summer associates who received an offer of full-time employment

	Men	Women
White/Caucasian	0	0
African-American/Black	0	0
Hispanic/Latino	0	0
Alaska Native/American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0
Multiracial	0	0
Openly GLBT	0	0
Attorneys with disabilities	0	0
Total	0	0

OFFERS ACCEPTED* (2011)

* Summer associates who accepted an offer of full-time employment

	Men	Women
White/Caucasian	0	0
African-American/Black	0	0
Hispanic/Latino	0	0
Alaska Native/American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0
Multiracial	0	0
Openly GLBT	0	0
Attorneys with disabilities	0	0
Total	0	0

NEITHER ACCEPTED NOR DECLINED (2011)

* Summer associates who neither accepted nor declined an offer of full-time employment because of postgraduate clerkship/fellowship

	Men	Women
White/Caucasian	0	0
African-American/Black	0	0
Hispanic/Latino	0	0
Alaska Native/American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0
Multiracial	0	0
Openly GLBT	0	0
Attorneys with disabilities	0	0
Total	0	0

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2012 VAULT/MCCA LAW FIRM DIVERSITY SURVEY

Recruitment - Lateral Associates and Partners

LATERAL ASSOCIATE HIRES (2011)

	Men	Women
White/Caucasian	0	1
African-American/Black	0	0
Hispanic/Latino	0	0
Alaska Native/American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0
Multiracial	0	0
Openly GLBT	0	0
Attorneys with disabilities	0	0
Total	0	1

LATERAL OF COUNSEL HIRES (2011)

	Men	Women
White/Caucasian	0	0
African-American/Black	0	0
Hispanic/Latino	0	0
Alaska Native/American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0
Multiracial	0	0
Openly GLBT	0	0
Attorneys with disabilities	0	0
Total	0	0

LATERAL PARTNER HIRES* (2011)

* Both equity and non-equity

	Men	Women
White/Caucasian	0	0
African-American/Black	0	0
Hispanic/Latino	0	0
Alaska Native/American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0
Multiracial	0	0
Openly GLBT	0	0
Attorneys with disabilities	0	0
Total	0	0

NEW PARTNERS PROMOTED* (2011)

* Both equity and non-equity promoted from associate or of counsel rank

	Men	Women
White/Caucasian	0	0
African-American/Black	0	0
Hispanic/Latino	0	0
Alaska Native/American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0
Multiracial	0	0
Openly GLBT	0	0
Attorneys with disabilities	0	0
Total	0	0

NEW EQUITY PARTNERS* (2011)

* Whether hired laterally or promoted from within

	Men	Women
White/Caucasian	0	0
African-American/Black	0	0
Hispanic/Latino	0	0
Alaska Native/American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0
Multiracial	0	0
Openly GLBT	0	0
Attorneys with disabilities	0	0
Total	0	0

Recruitment - Lateral Associates and Partners

What activities does the firm undertake to attract diverse attorneys?

- Partner programs with women, minority, gay/lesbian or disability-focused bar associations
- Participate at diversity job fairs
- Attend events at diversity legal organizations
- Seek referrals from other attorneys
- Utilize online job services (e.g., MCCA Job Bank)
- Hire recruiting professional who specializes in identifying diverse candidates
- Other (please specify)

Do you use executive recruiting/search firms to seek to identify new diversity hires (partners or associates)?

No

If yes, are any of these executive recruiting/search firms women and/or minority-owned?

Not applicable

If yes, list all women and/or minority-owned executive search/recruiting firms to which the firm paid a fee for placement services in the past 12 months:

Not applicable



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Retention and Professional Development

2012 VAULT/MCCA LAW FIRM DIVERSITY SURVEY

ATTORNEYS WHO LEFT THE FIRM IN 2011

1ST-YEAR ASSOCIATES

	Men	Women
White/Caucasian	0	0
African-American/Black	0	0
Hispanic/Latino	0	0
Alaska Native/American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0
Multiracial	0	0
Openly GLBT	0	0
Attorneys with disabilities	0	0
Total	0	0

2ND-YEAR ASSOCIATES

	Men	Women
White/Caucasian	0	0
African-American/Black	0	0
Hispanic/Latino	0	0
Alaska Native/American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0
Multiracial	0	0
Openly GLBT	0	0
Attorneys with disabilities	0	0
Total	0	0

3RD-YEAR ASSOCIATES

	Men	Women
White/Caucasian	0	0
African-American/Black	0	0
Hispanic/Latino	0	0
Alaska Native/American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0
Multiracial	0	0
Openly GLBT	0	0
Attorneys with disabilities	0	0
Total	0	0

4TH-YEAR ASSOCIATES

	Men	Women
White/Caucasian	0	0
African-American/Black	0	0
Hispanic/Latino	0	0
Alaska Native/American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0
Multiracial	0	0
Openly GLBT	0	0
Attorneys with disabilities	0	0
Total	0	0

5TH-YEAR ASSOCIATES

	Men	Women
White/Caucasian	1	1
African-American/Black	0	0
Hispanic/Latino	0	0
Alaska Native/American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0
Multiracial	0	0
Openly GLBT	0	0
Attorneys with disabilities	0	0
Total	1	1

6TH-YEAR ASSOCIATES

	Men	Women
White/Caucasian	0	0
African-American/Black	0	0
Hispanic/Latino	0	0
Alaska Native/American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0
Multiracial	0	0
Openly GLBT	0	0
Attorneys with disabilities	0	0
Total	0	0

ATTORNEYS WHO LEFT THE FIRM IN 2011

7TH-YEAR ASSOCIATES

	Men	Women
White/Caucasian	0	0
African-American/Black	0	0
Hispanic/Latino	0	0
Alaska Native/American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0
Multiracial	0	0
Openly GLBT	0	0
Attorneys with disabilities	0	0
Total	0	0

8TH-YEAR PLUS ASSOCIATES

	Men	Women
White/Caucasian	0	1
African-American/Black	0	0
Hispanic/Latino	0	0
Alaska Native/American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0
Multiracial	0	0
Openly GLBT	0	0
Attorneys with disabilities	0	0
Total	0	1

OF COUNSEL

	Men	Women
White/Caucasian	0	0
African-American/Black	0	0
Hispanic/Latino	0	0
Alaska Native/American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0
Multiracial	0	0
Openly GLBT	0	0
Attorneys with disabilities	0	0
Total	0	0

NON-EQUITY PARTNERS

	Men	Women
White/Caucasian	0	0
African-American/Black	0	0
Hispanic/Latino	0	0
Alaska Native/American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0
Multiracial	0	0
Openly GLBT	0	0
Attorneys with disabilities	0	0
Total	0	0

EQUITY PARTNERS

	Men	Women
White/Caucasian	0	0
African-American/Black	0	0
Hispanic/Latino	0	0
Alaska Native/American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0
Multiracial	0	0
Openly GLBT	0	0
Attorneys with disabilities	0	0
Total	0	0

Please identify the specific steps you are taking to reduce the attrition rate of diverse attorneys.

- Develop and/or support internal employee affinity groups (e.g., networks within the firm for minorities, women, gay/lesbian attorneys, or attorneys with disabilities or physical challenges)
- Increase/review compensation relative to competition
- Increase/improve current work/life programs
- Adopt dispute resolution process
- Succession plan includes emphasis on diversity and greater inclusion of non-white men and women in firm leadership
- Work with diverse attorneys to develop career advancement plans
- Introduce diverse attorneys to key clients, including to lead engagements
- Review work assignments and hours billed to key client matters to make sure diverse attorneys, particularly non-white attorneys (i.e., minority attorneys, for whom research indicates a greater inclusion problem), are not being excluded:
- Strengthen mentoring program for all attorneys
- Professional skills development program for all attorneys
- Provide a gender-neutral parental leave policy that covers adoptions
- Other (please specify)

Does your firm have part-time/flex-time policies that permit attorneys (male or female) to work alternative schedules?

Yes

Comments:

All attorneys are allowed to work any hours they choose to work.

What impact, if any, will the decision to work part time have on an attorney's ability to make a partner, or if already a partner, to remain a partner at your firm?

We have not had this issue come up in our firm. However, it should not affect them as long as salary is commensurate with the work performed.

How many current equity partners have worked part time, exclusive of maternity/paternity leave or short-term disability?

No partners work part-time.



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Retention and Professional Development

2012 VAULT/MCCA LAW FIRM DIVERSITY SURVEY

PART-TIME ATTORNEYS (2011)	PART-TIME ATTORNEYS			TOTAL NUMBER OF ATTORNEYS (full and part-time)
	Men	Women	Total	
Associates	0	1	1	4
Of counsel	1	0	1	2
Non-equity partner	0	0	0	0
Equity partner	0	0	0	8



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Management Demographic Profile

2012 VAULT/MCCA LAW FIRM DIVERSITY SURVEY

FIRMWIDE COMMITTEES 2011

EXECUTIVE/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE*

* Attorneys on the Executive/Management Committee or equivalent

	Men	Women
White/Caucasian	8	0
African-American/Black	0	0
Hispanic/Latino	0	0
Alaska Native/American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0
Multiracial	0	0
Openly GLBT	0	0
Attorneys with disabilities	0	0
Total	8	0

HIRING COMMITTEE*

* Attorneys on Hiring Committee or equivalent

	Men	Women
White/Caucasian	2	0
African-American/Black	0	1
Hispanic/Latino	0	0
Alaska Native/American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0
Multiracial	0	0
Openly GLBT	0	0
Attorneys with disabilities	0	0
Total	2	1

PARTNER REVIEW COMMITTEE*

* Attorneys on the Partner Review Committee or equivalent

	Men	Women
White/Caucasian	8	0
African-American/Black	0	0
Hispanic/Latino	0	0
Alaska Native/American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0
Multiracial	0	0
Openly GLBT	0	0
Attorneys with disabilities	0	0
Total	8	0

ASSOCIATE REVIEW COMMITTEE*

* Attorneys on the Associate Review Committee or equivalent

	Men	Women
White/Caucasian	0	0
African-American/Black	0	0
Hispanic/Latino	0	0
Alaska Native/American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0
Multiracial	0	0
Openly GLBT	0	0
Attorneys with disabilities	0	0
Total	0	0

ATTORNEYS ON THE DIVERSITY COMMITTEE OR EQUIVALENT

	Men	Women
White/Caucasian	2	0
African-American/Black	0	1
Hispanic/Latino	0	0
Alaska Native/American Indian	0	0
Asian	0	0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0
Multiracial	0	0
Openly GLBT	0	0
Attorneys with disabilities	0	0
Total	2	1

OTHER LEADERSHIP ROLES 2011

Leadership positions (2011)	U.S. office heads	Practice group/ department leaders	Committee leaders
Total number of positions	0	0	1
Number of such positions held by:			
Minorities	0	0	1
Women	0	0	1
GLBT attorneys	0	0	0
Attorneys with disabilities	0	0	0

Please provide information regarding all diverse attorneys who currently head offices, practice groups and committees. Enter responses in the following format: Attorney, Office location/Practice group/Committee (No. of attorneys in office/practice group/committee).

U.S. OFFICE HEADS

How many offices does your firm have in the United States? 1

Minorities heading offices: None

Women heading offices: None

GLBT attorneys heading offices: None

Attorneys with disabilities heading offices: None

PRACTICE GROUP/DEPARTMENT LEADERS

Minorities heading practices: None

Women heading practices: None

GLBT attorneys heading practices: None

Attorneys with disabilities heading practices: None

COMMITTEE LEADERS

Minorities heading committees: Dwazendra J. Smith, Diversity Committee (3)

Women heading committees: Dwazendra J. Smith, Diversity Committee (3)

GLBT attorneys heading committees: None

Attorneys with disabilities heading committees: None



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The Firm Says

2012 VAULT/MCCA LAW FIRM DIVERSITY SURVEY

In the last several years, we have hired seven associates. Four were women, including an African American female. Our last hire was hired from a minority law school, Southern University. We are a small firm and therefore do not have many formal committees like large firms. However, our firm has specifically targeted minorities and women in our hiring process and our last hires reflect our firm's continued commitment to diversity.

