

Our Diverse History

Schnader's commitment to diversity, inclusion and public service are rooted in the firm's beginnings. In 1935, William A. Schnader, Bernard G. Segal, and Francis A. Lewis, attorneys of different religious backgrounds, shocked the legal community by embracing religious diversity and founding the firm of Schnader and Lewis. From the start, our attorneys fought against prejudice, including those rooted in religion, politics, race and gender.

Schnader has been active in the civil rights movement since the early 1960s. At the urging of President John F. Kennedy and Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, Bernard Segal organized and co-chaired the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, which sent lawyers to Mississippi to defend civil rights workers. Former partner Jerome Shestack worked with Segal in the formation of the Lawyers' Committee and served as its first executive director. Earl Harrison served on the board of trustees of Howard University and actively participated in civil rights cases seeking to establish complete equality before the law. William H. Brown, III was appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson as the fourth chairman of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and served in that position from 1969 to 1973. Under Mr. Brown's leadership, the EEOC tackled workplace issues related to adverse impact, job-testing validation and national origin discrimination and Mr. Brown won national recognition for his fairness and diligence. He joined the firm in 1974 as its first African American partner.

The firm was a pioneer in promoting gender diversity and inclusion. Schnader was one of the first major law firms in Philadelphia to hire a woman attorney, Josephine Klein, in 1954. In 1969, Margaret M. Powers became the first woman to be elected partner at the firm. Since that time, women regularly have been elected partner, and have been appointed or elected to key leadership roles in the firm. Marilyn Z. Kutler was elected as the first woman member of the firm's Executive Committee. Diana S. Donaldson served as the firm's managing partner from 2002 to 2009. Theresa E. Loscalzo serves as the firm's co-managing partner and is a member of the Executive Committee. Christine Carty served as managing partner of the firm's New York office from 1995-1998 and 2003-2016 and also served as a member of the Executive Committee. Lisa Rodriguez serves as the managing partner of the firm's New Jersey office and as the firm's

ombudsperson. In addition, many of our practice groups are chaired by women.

Today, the firm remains steadfast in its commitment to diversity and at every opportunity, our attorneys speak out against the ills of racial injustice. To read more, please [click here](#) for Judge Timothy Lewis' 2015 Higginbotham lecture and [here](#) for Judge Lewis' 2017 speech, "It's In Our Hands." In both lectures, Judge Lewis implored the bar to do more, whether to address racial inequities or to shift the national dialogue away from the language of division.