



O Canada! Cross-border Diversity Issues

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Ebony S. Morris is an associate attorney in the New Orleans, Louisiana office of Garrison, Yount, Forte, & Mulcahy, LLC. Ebony handles all day-to-day aspects of general litigation matters from inception to resolution and takes and defends fact and expert witness depositions in general litigation matters throughout Louisiana. She was recently selected for inclusion in the 2019 Louisiana Super Lawyers "Rising Stars" List.

Paulette Brown is a partner and chief diversity officer at Edwards Wildman Palmer LLP in Morristown, New Jersey. Her inspiring legal career is replete with examples of a woman who has worked tirelessly to create opportunities for people of color and women.

Vivene Salmon served as president of the Canadian Bar Association (CBA) in 2019/2020 and has served on its board of directors since 2017. Founded in 1896, the CBA is the voice of the legal profession in Canada and represents 36,000 lawyers, judges, legal educators and law students. Salmon is the first racialized person / BIPOC / Black and first female corporate counsel in the over 125 year history of the organization to hold this position. As president, Salmon chaired the board of directors, acted as the CBA's main spokesperson and was responsible for governance, advocacy and the financial affairs of the organization. Salmon developed and chaired the tremendously successful CBA's inaugural Leadership Development for Racialized Lawyers, which provided leadership skills and a networking forum for the next generation of diverse leaders in the legal profession. Salmon hosted the popular podcast series: "Conversations with the President," which received the 2019 Canadian Law Blog Award for favorite Canadian Law Podcast. A committed volunteer in the legal and broader communities, Vivene has volunteered as a Board Member on several non-profit community boards, including: Food for the Poor Canada, a charity which supports building schools in the Caribbean and Latin America. In 2020, Salmon was honored as a Top 25 Women of Influence, Top 100 Canadian Black Women to Watch 2020 and was named a Top 25 Influential Lawyer by Canadian Lawyer Magazine.

Summary

The United States and Canada are close neighbors and allies. Both countries face issues related to diversity. The ways in which each country has dealt with these issues can serve as valuable learning tools for the other. Each country's first woman of color national bar president will share insight on issues of diversity.

Materials

- [Five lessons in authentic Black leadership](#)
- [Be the Driver of Real Change in Equality](#)
- [This Black History Month, Law Firms Should Challenge Norms](#)
- [Left Out and Left Behind](#)