



RK ALUMNI CONNECT

NEWSLETTER

ABOUT RK ALUMNI CONNECT

[RK Alumni Connect](#) is a networking group for current and former Robins Kaplan attorneys. We provide forums for learning and professional development, an alumni website, CLE/professional development and training, community service activities, diversity & inclusion programming, pro bono opportunities, and networking and social events.

Visit us on [LinkedIn](#) or our [RK Alumni Connect](#) web page to stay current on updates from Robins Kaplan, get news about former colleagues, and information on a variety of legal developments, as we continue to build years of friendships.

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ROBINS KAPLAN'S DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION EFFORTS ARE EXPANDING

RITA HOLMES-BOBO

Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

As one of my first steps as the new Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) for Robins Kaplan, I have embarked on a virtual listening tour across the firm to assist with gaining knowledge of previous DEI-related efforts and assist in setting priorities for future programs and initiatives. Although there will be many more conversations aimed at gathering input, I have already found a strong commitment to substantive DEI goals and a desire for tangible progress.

Co-chairs Tim Purdon and Sherry Roberg-Perez lead our DEI Committee. Additionally, DEI resource group leadership is as follows:

- **Christine Yun Sauer**, Chair, Attorneys of Color (AOC)
- **Brandon Vaughn**, Leader, Black Firm Members Group
- **Holly Dolejsi**, Chair, WoRK (Women of Robins Kaplan)
- **Daniel Allender** and **Doug Lancet**, Co-Chairs, LGBTQ+ Group

Unfortunately, there have been a myriad of heartbreaking incidents in cities across the country, which heightened our collective awareness and strengthened our resolve to seek solutions to the inequities in our communities and in workplaces. Those same incidents have empowered voices in many organizations, including law firms, to speak up, focus on solution-oriented efforts and advocate for meaningful change.

Robins Kaplan leadership demonstrated its support by listening, learning and committing resources to address the amplified inequities. The firm's recently announced [2025 Goals - Our Commitment to Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity](#) are robust and achievable. Moving forward, our approach places equity at the forefront of our DEI efforts. This focus on equity demonstrates our belief that we must provide different programs and resources based on groups' specific needs to achieve fairness, success and reconcile past barriers. We believe that focusing on equity is required to achieve diverse and inclusive workplaces.

I am excited to work with firm leadership, the DEI Committee co-chairs; diversity resource groups; and our recently hired DEI Coordinator, Janet Jennings, as we continue identifying meaningful actions to recruit and retain underrepresented attorneys and staff, ensure equitable distribution of work and opportunities, address systemic racism, and drive a culture of inclusion. All of this work will be undergirded by a data-driven approach to inform and evaluate our DEI initiatives and programs.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

We got a chance to catch up with former Robins Kaplan attorneys China Boak Terrell and Tony Beasley to see what they are up to now. Read on to check out their current endeavors and accomplishments!



CHINA BOAK TERRELL

Chief Executive Officer
American Communities Trust, Inc.
Robins Kaplan Associate 2002 - 2004

Where are you working now? How long have you worked there?

I'm the CEO of American Communities Trust, Inc. We're a public charity with our own real estate projects so I am both a nonprofit developer and a developer's consultant. I joined in 2016 right after going back to grad school to get my MPA from Harvard's Kennedy School.

What made you decide to take this career path?

In 2005, I had emergency open-heart surgery that changed my life. I determined then that if God blessed me to live, I would turn my volunteer work into a career so that I could help build up communities and uplift people in a more impactful way.

What does a typical workday include for you?

Here's today's to-do list:

- Finish Martha's questionnaire - she has been so patient!
- Ask lender for revised term sheet to leverage loan through new markets tax credit structure.
- Get Elaine to pre-school!
- Work with staff on press release for community tree planting event.
- Draft pitch document for construction training program for New Jersey client.
- Conference with legal and financial team to settle on structure for next financial closing on \$10M.
- Pick up Elaine from pre-school!
- Shift gears entirely and invite donors to make campaign contributions while making dinner!

What is the most fulfilling part of your job?

I love rejoicing with residents that we're finally bringing about the change they've been demanding for so long. In Baltimore, we cleaned up four acres of environmental pollution that the city left behind after it abandoned an old city yard. The site was so blighted that it became the perfect filming location for the HBO series, the Wire. So far, we've raised over \$13 million to transform that brownfield and also renovate the historic buildings. We've also raised more than \$1.5 million in incentives for our small business tenants, including our black-owned businesses. We've got lots more work to do, but we can see the reawakened hope in the eyes of the people we serve. Restoration and new economic activity completely raise the bar of possibility. See before and after photos below.

Is there anything in particular you learned while working at Robins Kaplan that is useful to you in your current role?

At Robins Kaplan, I learned to be a pioneer—to be unafraid to play the long game in cracking a code that isn't solved yet, but that would benefit everyone if solved. That paradigm leads our fearlessness in problem solving every day. And thankfully, Robins Kaplan also taught me that a little swashbuckling is good for team morale!

If you are willing, please share some information about your favorite hobbies or interests that fill your free time.

I'm running for office! Robins Kaplan certainly taught me that if you work at solving a challenge long enough, you'll see the policy changes that need to be made to improve the whole system. So, I'm running for delegate to the Maryland Legislature. My website is chinaterrell.com. That, plus trying to get in quality time with my husband and raising our four-year old, fills all the free time for now.

If you could create a new law or policy what would it be?

I would pass the Biden Administration's proposed housing policies, especially the Neighborhood Homes Investment Act. And I would slash Baltimore City's property tax from 2.25% to .86% to be competitive with our neighbors, including DC.

It could be a "Halley's Comet" opportunity: If we could implement real and personal property tax reform now, timed with the passage of Biden's accelerants for home ownership, then we could completely eradicate Baltimore's severe housing abandonment problem in under 10 years. We could also close the 21-percentage point gap between Baltimore's homeownership rate (47.8%) and Maryland's homeownership rate (68.8%). What a turbocharge that would be for our economy and our region!

2013: Decay and neglect at "old city yard" welcomed Amtrak passengers to Baltimore City.



2019: Newly rehabilitated, historic storehouse



Until 2016: Hundreds of tires, barrels of chemicals, abandoned 18-wheeler and porta potty, plus highly toxic soil levels characterized site.



2017: Storm water management system and environmental remediation are complete.





ANTHONY “TONY” BEASLEY

Principal Corporate Counsel
Microsoft | Azure Edge Devices and Platform
Robins Kaplan Associate 2008 - 2013

Where are you working now? How long have you worked there?

Microsoft - 1 year in March

What made you decide to take this career path?

As my family grew, I wasn't sure that law firm litigation was the life for me anymore (as much as I enjoyed it). I started looking for in-house positions that would allow me to grow as a lawyer, maintain a focus on high technology, and help balance things out at home. A couple of former colleagues had become product support attorneys at Microsoft and spoke highly of the company, the culture, and their job satisfaction. I decided to give it a shot, and I'm glad I did.

What does a typical workday include for you?

As a “frontline” product support attorney, I am the first call for a whole host of issues that my clients might run into - anything from inbound IP licensing to open source compliance and privacy. I give advice, help draft agreements, and provide an avenue to subject matter experts within the legal department when necessary. I am on calls with engineers and product managers and providing consults most of the day, with a lot of email and Teams chats in between. And I am the legal representative of “product truth” within the broader organization for the groups I support.

What is the most fulfilling part of your job?

It's great to be an extension of the product teams — I'm truly invested in their success. We recently launched a new product, and I'm very excited to see a year's worth of hard work in prototyping, development, customer research (and of course, painstaking legal compliance and pathfinding) come into public focus for the first time.

Is there anything in particular you learned while working at Robins Kaplan that is useful to you in your current role?

Even though I'm no longer litigating, the lessons I learned at Robins still persist. My mentors and colleagues at Robins taught me how to be detail-driven, how to translate between technological and legal or lay audiences, and how to lawyer creatively in order to deliver the best client service.



If you are willing, please share some information about your favorite hobbies or interests that fill your free time.

I have three kids - Mo (5 ½), Sonny (2) and Kai (7 months), and they are pretty much my hobbies and interests. And I'd have it no other way! But, I also like to golf when possible and I'm desperately awaiting the end of the pandemic so I can visit movie theaters again.

If you could create a new law or policy what would it be?

We need a comprehensive, federal legal framework for data protection, privacy, and responsible artificial intelligence. A state-by-state framework is starting to emerge and it will create a lot of work for enterprising law firms, but a lot of headaches for those of us trying to release products!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our lawyers will be sharing their expertise in several upcoming events. Contact Jasmine Bradford at JBradford@RobinsKaplan.com for registration information.

11TH ANNUAL DISABILITY JUSTICE SEMINAR: THE DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

May 7, 2021 | Virtual

WOMEN IN INSURANCE VIRTUAL SUMMIT

May 25, 2021 | Melissa D'Alelio

INTERNATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY: CHALLENGES OF CROSS-BORDER LITIGATION

June 10, & October 7, 2021 | Virtual

JOIN US FOR THE ROAD TO RESILIENCY

Robins Kaplan is pleased to offer “The Road to Resiliency,” a wellbeing series from [Dr. Henry Emmons](#) and [Catherine Duncan](#). These three evidence-based talks will focus on what it means to be resilient and how we can cope better with the challenges that we are facing daily.

Participants will learn how stress impacts the brain, body, and heart. Henry and Catherine will explain relevant neuroscience and how sleep, nutrition, movement, and self-compassion help our brain and body thrive in times of challenge.

- **RESILIENCY: THE BODY**

MAY 4, 2021 | 11:00 A.M. | 1:00 P.M. CT | 2:00 P.M. ET

What does it mean to be resilient? Henry and Catherine will discuss the sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous systems and the impact on stress and health. They will cover neuroplasticity, neurogenesis of the brain, and how we can rewire our brain. Discussion will include the role of sleep, nutrition and movement.

- **RESILIENCY: THE MIND AND HEART**

MAY 20, 2021 | 11:00 A.M. | 1:00 P.M. CT | 2:00 P.M. ET

How can we minimize distractions and use the mind to improve work, relationships and our health? What are the benefits of having a compassionate outlook and a supportive community? Henry and Catherine will share evidence-based research that healing starts with self-compassion and self-care.

- **RESILIENCY: PUTTING THESE LESSONS TO WORK**

JUNE 8, 2021 | 11:00 A.M. | 1:00 P.M. CT | 2:00 P.M. ET

In this final session, Henry and Catherine will share tips, and exercises, to bring resiliency and healing into our lives every day.

Robins Kaplan will seek approval for 1.00 hour of continuing legal education (CLE) credit in the following MCLE jurisdictions for this series – California, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Credit may be claimed in additional jurisdictions, such as New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, due to rules of reciprocity or approved jurisdiction policies.



ROBINS KAPLAN FILES U.S. SUPREME COURT AMICUS BRIEF ON BEHALF OF FORMER U.S. ATTORNEYS



TIM PURDON



BRENDAN JOHNSON



ERIC MAGNUSON

Robins Kaplan LLP filed an amicus brief at the United States Supreme Court in a matter that the firm is handling pro bono on behalf of a group of former United States Attorneys. The case, *United States v. Cooley*, concerns the scope of tribal law enforcement’s search and seizure authority over non-Natives on the Reservation. **Tim Purdon** and **Brendan Johnson**, both former U.S. Attorneys who co-chair the firm’s American Indian Law and Policy Group, are amici in the brief.

“As former U.S. Attorneys who prosecuted federal crimes on Reservations, the ten amici in this brief are all deeply familiar with the jurisdictional challenges facing federal, state, and tribal law enforcement officers and prosecutors as they endeavor to fight crime in those communities,” says Purdon. “I am pleased to have the firm support us on this important pro bono matter which will help strengthen public safety for American Indian Tribes across the country.”

Robins Kaplan’s pro bono program has a long-standing commitment to representing American Indian Tribes across the U.S. The firm’s work on behalf of Tribes includes representation of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe in a lawsuit against the federal government after it closed the only hospital emergency room on the Rosebud reservation and an important North Dakota Voting Rights case for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and the Spirit Lake Nation. This work has earned the firm recognition on the National Law Journal’s Pro Bono Hot List.

“We are glad to support Tim, Brendan, and their fellow former U.S. Attorneys in this important matter concerning public safety for Tribal communities,” said Logan Drew, chair of Robins Kaplan’s Pro Bono Committee. “We continue our commitment to work on issues important to American Indian Tribes.”

Robins Kaplan attorney **Eric Magnuson** and Robins Kaplan alumni Eric Boettcher worked on this pro bono matter.

CURRENT ROBINS KAPLAN JOB OPENINGS

BUSINESS LITIGATION HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATE

Full Time | Minneapolis, MN

ESTATE PLANNING STAFF ATTORNEY

Full Time | Minneapolis, MN

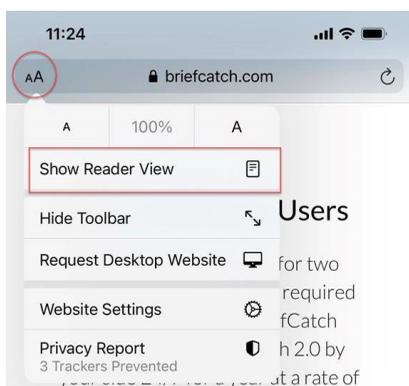
Robins Kaplan LLP is an equal opportunity employer committed to building a diverse workforce. Candidates should apply on-line at www.RobinsKaplan.com/Careers



TIPS FROM OUR BITS* TECH TEAM

TIME-SAVERS FOR ONLINE READING

TIP #1: On your computer: Ditch your mouse's scroll wheel or your keyboard's down arrow key; instead, use your spacebar! When reading an article in your favorite browser, **press the spacebar to jump down one full screen at a time**. Conversely, press the **Shift key + spacebar to scroll up** a full screen with each press. Note: If you are pressing the spacebar and your page isn't moving, it may have a text entry form field.



TIP #2: On your iPhone/iPad: Use **Reader View** in Safari to view web pages without all the clutter. Reader View formats a webpage to show only the relevant text and images. **Tap AA** at the left end of the address field, **then tap Show Reader View (see left)**. To return to the full page, tap AA, then tap Hide Reader View. Note: If AA is dimmed, Reader View isn't available for that page.

*Business Innovation and Technology Services





WE HAVE A NEW WEB PAGE!

Visit the [RK Alumni Connect](#) web page to stay updated on alumni features, newsletters, events, and more!

RK ALUMNI CONTACT INFO

Please feel free to contact Jasmine if you'd like to share released publications, job postings at your place of business, or if you'd like to be featured in our Alumni Spotlight.



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