

NEW ROLES, NEW BEGINNINGS IN WESTCHESTER LAW

Melissa Andrieux, Esq., the Chief Client Relations Officer and Chair of the Diversity & Inclusion Council at Westchester-based law firm Dorf & Nelson LLP, sits down to answer questions about her new roles at the firm.

Q: Can you tell us what the Diversity & Inclusion Council is?

A: The Diversity & Inclusion Council is Dorf & Nelson's reaffirmation of its dedication to diversity and inclusion in the workplace. From the beginning, diversity and inclusion have been a guiding principle at Dorf & Nelson and the firm felt that it was important and necessary to reaffirm its commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion to its employees and clients. In furtherance of that commitment, we convened a Diversity & Inclusion Council, which consists of a group of employees of different backgrounds to oversee, manage and promote companywide communication on the firm's continued progress as it relates to diversity, inclusion, culture and equity at the firm.

Q: Why is the Diversity & Inclusion Council important to Dorf & Nelson?

A: The importance of the Council cannot be overstated. At Dorf & Nelson it is vital that everyone knows and believes they have an equal opportunity to contribute and be included in all aspects of the firm. We truly believe that having diverse viewpoints and opinions not only benefits the firm and its employees but provides better results to our clients as they have access to a wide range of perspectives and ideas to address their evolving needs. The firm's commitment to diversity and inclusion is forward thinking and sets Dorf & Nelson apart from many other firms.

Q: I see that you started your career as a practicing attorney. How did you come to serve as the Chief Client Relations Officer and Chair of the Diversity & Inclusion Council?

A: In what feels like a lifetime ago, I began my career as an assistant dis-



Melissa Andrieux, Esq.

trict attorney in Queens County. From there, I transitioned to civil litigation and in 2018, I joined Dorf & Nelson as a civil litigator. But by the end of 2020, I began to think about other ways I could contribute to the growth and advancement of firm.

Q: Did you discuss your thoughts and ideas about your career with anyone at the firm?

A: Absolutely. Dorf & Nelson encourages open dialogue with its employees, which made it very easy and comfortable for me to discuss my career goals and where I believed I could be an asset to the firm. During the course of my discussions, it became clear that I could be an integral part of continuing to grow, expand and diversify the firm's areas of practice through marketing and business-

development operations and I was offered the role as the firm's first Chief Client Relations Officer.

Q: What is a Chief Client Relations Officer and what does the position entail?

A: As the firm's Chief Client Relations Officer, my primary objective is to create and nurture the firm's relationships with our clients, whether they are existing clients or new clients, as well as building relationships within the firm. Being cognizant that workplace diversity is more important today than ever before, it was a natural progression that I would also serve as Chair of the Diversity & Inclusion Council and it is an honor and privilege to serve in both roles.



DORF & NELSON LLP

ABOUT DORF & NELSON

The entity now known as Dorf & Nelson LLP was founded in 1997. Dorf & Nelson LLP is a private practice law firm headquartered at the International Corporate Center in Rye, New York, with offices in Manhattan, Garden City, New York and Los Angeles, California. Dorf & Nelson serves a wide range of corporations, entrepreneurs, growing businesses and successful companies as both legal counsel and trusted advisors in the practice areas of litigation, commercial and real property finance, corporate law, commercial real estate and land use, employment and labor law, intellectual property, life sciences, medical malpractice defense and not-for-profit. For more information, visit dorflaw.com.



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