



## **Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association Selects Shook Attorney Jolie Justus for 2018 Sly James Diversity and Inclusion Award**

*KCMBA to present Diversity Award to Jolie Justus at the annual Bench-Bar & Boardroom Conference, May 16-18, 2018.*

**Kansas City, Mo** (May 14, 2018) The Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association (KCMBA) has selected Shook Attorney Jolie L. Justus for its 2018 Sly James Diversity and Inclusion Award. Each year the KCMBA Diversity Section and local diverse bar associations present the award to a member of the Kansas City legal community for contributions to diversity and inclusion in the profession of law. Justus, who is the Director of Pro Bono Services at Shook, Hardy & Bacon, manages the day-to-day administration of the firm's award winning pro bono program.

"Shook prides itself on creating a diverse workforce and inclusive culture," said Shook Chair Madeleine McDonough. "Jolie has been integral to our success leading Shook's formal pro bono program for the last 20 years and in championing opportunities for diverse attorneys. We are very fortunate to have her here at Shook."

Working with Justus, Shook reached a major milestone for its inclusive work environment when it earned a perfect score on the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) 2018 Corporate Equality Index for the tenth consecutive year. Shook's score secures its place on HRC's roster of "Best Places to Work for LGBT Equality." Justus was also a charter member of the firm's Diversity & Inclusion Committee and worked with firm leadership to add a director of strategic diversity initiatives to its senior leadership to promote diversity and inclusion drivers of excellence, education and equity across all of Shook's offices.

"I have the privilege of working alongside Jolie and have witnessed her tenacity and compassion for others as she tackles the big picture and day-to-day issues," stated Shook's Director of Strategic Diversity Initiatives Kori Carew. "Her actions and deeds are reflected in the faces of diverse attorneys, whom she tirelessly seeks to provide opportunities, allowing them to succeed in the profession they love."

"This diversity honor would not have happened without Shook leadership who recognized early that an inclusive work environment is a better work environment," said Justus. "Thanks to all the men and women who worked together over the years to build a culture that accepts, advances and promotes diverse attorneys and staff."

In addition to leading pro bono efforts and advocating for diversity and inclusion, Justus is a member of the Kansas City Council, representing the 4<sup>th</sup> District. Prior to joining the council, Justus served as the Minority Leader of the Missouri State Senate.

“There are two kinds of people, those who talk about getting things done and those who actually roll up their sleeves and accomplish goals,” said Shook Partner and retired Jackson County Circuit Judge Jon R. Gray. “Jolie falls into the latter group. She has been a tireless advocate for others and it is wonderful to see her recognized by her peers. Congratulations, my friend.”

The award will be presented to Justus, May 16-18, 2018 at the annual Bench-Bar & Boardroom Conference in Branson, Missouri.

To speak to Jolie Justus about the Diversity Award or diversity issues, contact Shook Media Relations Manager, Heather McMichael, [hmc michael@shb.com](mailto:hmc michael@shb.com) or 816.389.0419.

### **About Shook, Hardy & Bacon International LLP**

Founded in 1889, Shook, Hardy & Bacon has 12 offices in the United States and London, with attorneys and professional staff serving clients in the health, science and technology sectors in areas ranging from product liability defense and commercial litigation to intellectual property prosecution and litigation, environmental and toxic tort, privacy and data security and regulatory counseling.