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## **Lawyers for Good Government Foundation Announces New Racial Justice Initiative**

**BNY Mellon, Johnson & Johnson, Verizon, Advance and Condé Nast, Dell Technologies, Digital Asset, and General Electric Pledge Support of In-House Counsel**

*Kirkland & Ellis, Mayer Brown LLP, White & Case LLP, and Other Major Law Firms to Help Lead State and Local Efforts*

**WASHINGTON** – Today, [Lawyers for Good Government Foundation](https://www.l4gg.org) (L4GG), a non-profit network of more than 120,000 legal advocates with lawyers in all 50 states, formally launched its new Lawyers for Racial Justice initiative, enlisting the in-house counsel of Fortune 500 companies, the support of major law firms, and a nationwide network of pro bono attorneys, to help bring about systemic change by mobilizing much-needed legal resources in the fight for racial justice at the state and local level.

BNY Mellon and Kirkland & Ellis have been announced as Leadership Partners, the largest supporters of the initiative. Significant support has also been provided to the initiative by Johnson & Johnson; Mayer Brown LLP; Verizon; and White & Case LLP. Additional corporate supporters include Advance and Condé Nast; Dell Technologies; Digital Asset; and General Electric Company. Additional law firm supporters include Alston & Bird; Cozen O'Connor; DLA Piper LLP (US); Eversheds Sutherland LLP; Fenwick & West LLP; Holland & Hart LLP; Linklaters LLP; McDermott, Will, & Emery, LLP; Morgan, Lewis, & Bockius LLP; Norton Rose Fulbright LLP; Proskauer Rose LLP; Reed Smith LLP; Robins Kaplan LLP; Willkie, Farr & Gallagher LLP; and Winston & Strawn LLP. Many other law firms and corporate in-house legal departments will be taking part in the work of the initiative.

**TO BECOME A LAWYERS FOR RACIAL JUSTICE PARTNER VISIT:**

[www.L4GG.org/racialjustice](https://www.L4GG.org/racialjustice)

“Thank you to our Leadership Partners, to all of our members and supporters, and to all of our coalition partners in the civil and human rights community,” **said Lawyers for Good Government Foundation’s Vice President of policy and strategic engagement Adam Fernandez.** “Together we will work to ensure that all levels of government—national, state, and local—provide equal rights, equal opportunities, and equal justice to all.”

Participants in the initiative are dedicated to providing resources and pro-bono hours in the advancement of racial justice. Current and planned initiatives include:

- Researching the legal landscape and drafting model legislation on the role of law enforcement personnel in schools, seeking to dismantle the school to prison pipeline in partnership with the [Dignity in Schools](#) coalition and others
- Providing essential information regarding the right to vote to historically marginalized populations in partnership with the NAACP and other civil rights organizations
- Ensuring access to safe and clean drinking water in communities of color impacted disproportionately by climate change

“BNY Mellon shares L4GG’s commitment to mobilizing the legal community in the fight for racial equity and social justice. Through thoughtful pro bono service, we must lend our talents, creativity and expertise to solve the multi-dimensional harms caused by systemic racism,” **said Kevin McCarthy, Senior Executive Vice President and General Counsel of BNY Mellon.** “L4GG has the purpose, sense of urgency and organizational skills needed to turn this moment into a catalyst of long-term change. We are proud to be leaders in our support.”

“At a time during which the country is at an inflection point in moving toward racial justice, it is incumbent upon us as lawyers to direct the many resources of our profession toward creating systems that provide equal treatment, equal opportunities, and equal justice for all people under the law,” **said Jacqueline Haberkamp, pro bono counsel at Kirkland & Ellis.** “We are grateful for the opportunity provided by the Lawyers for Racial Justice project of Lawyers for Good Government Foundation to work with other firms and in-house legal departments to strive together toward our collective goal of race equity for all.”

Preceding its official launch, Lawyers for Racial Justice completed a 50-state voting rights research project in partnership with the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law (LCCRUL). It features the work of more than 26 law firms and in-house counsel teams, and over \$350,000 dollars worth of pro-bono service, detailing the most pressing concerns around mail-in and absentee voting ahead of the 2020 election.

“We are extremely grateful to our partners, and thank them for joining us in this fight against racial injustice. As lawyers, we must use our voices and legal skills to demand and help cultivate systemic change,” **said Lawyers for Good Government Foundation’s executive director Traci Feit Love.**

**If you are interested in learning more about Lawyers for Racial Justice and its upcoming efforts, I’d be happy to connect you with Traci to learn more.**

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