

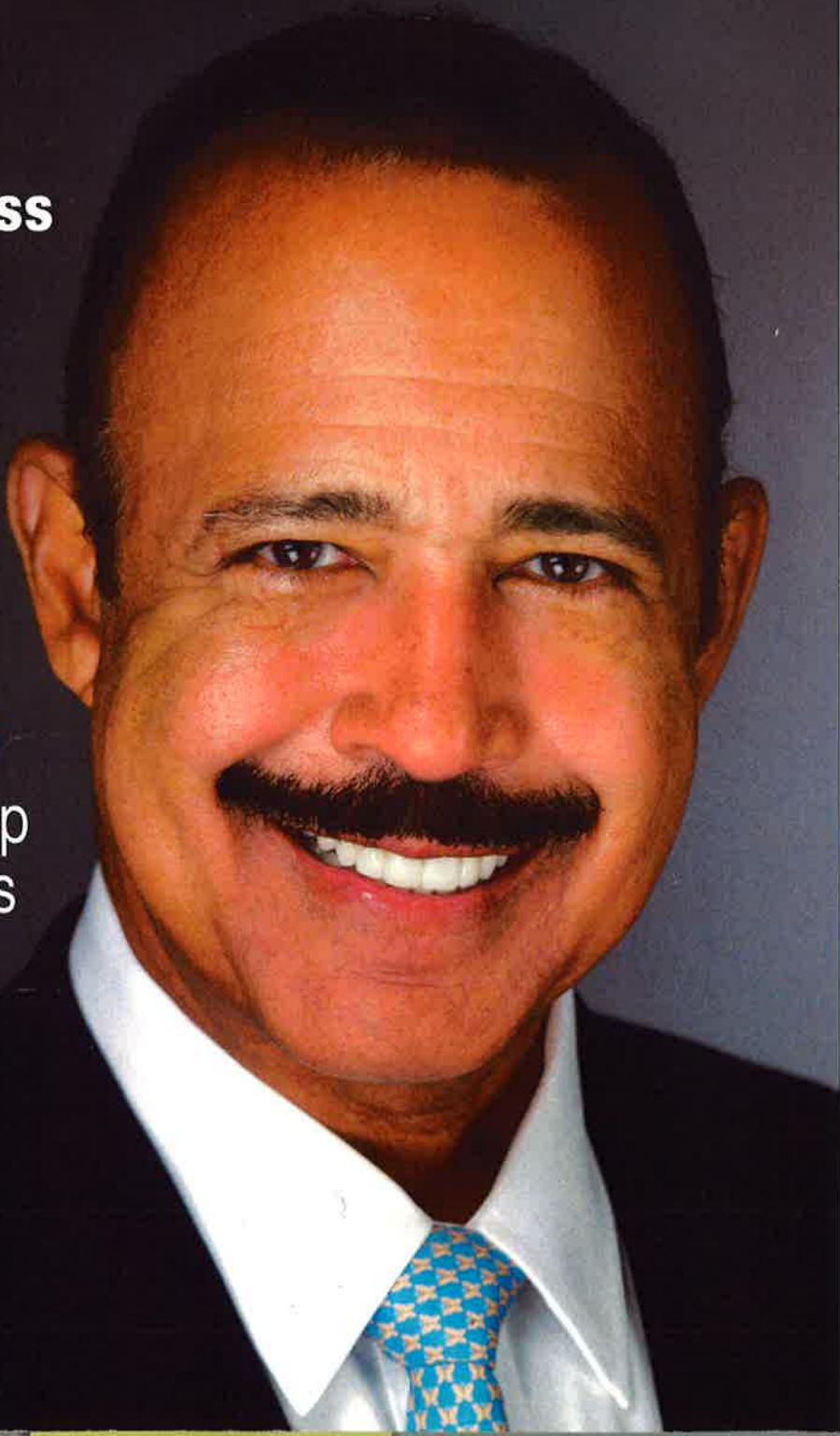
# SAVOY

## Ted Wells

Partner - Paul, Weiss  
One of America's  
Top Litigators

## 2015 Most Influential Black Lawyers

Meet Some of the Top  
"Must Have" Lawyers  
in the Country



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# Savoy Magazine's 2015 Most Influential BLACK LAWYERS

## SELECTION CRITERIA

*Savoy 2015 Most Influential Black Lawyers* showcases a cross section of lawyers who represent a very diverse range of expertise with a national and global focus. While we looked at many potential candidates, our focus is to select Black partners from primary AM Law 200 law firms and corporate counsel from Fortune 1000 companies.

The selection process for the prestigious *Savoy 2015 Most Influential Black Lawyers* begins with a review of the landscape encompassing the "spheres of influence" that greatly impact our view of a top lawyer. These spheres include: area of expertise, annual billing, firm leadership, pro bono work, community service and overall reputation. Our selection committee includes the Savoy Editorial Board and a legal advisory board that includes from prominent judges, corporate counsel and accomplished law professors. Our goal is to select a comprehensive list of extraordinary lawyers from a wide range of practice areas, range of expertise and geographic locations.

Once we identified the "2015 Most Influential Black Lawyers," we notified these exceptional lawyers to announce their selection in our top lawyer list. Following their acceptance, we received additional information from each one that was developed into the profiles presented here in *Savoy Magazine*.

*Savoy 2015 Most Influential Black Lawyers* is a comprehensive list of extraordinary lawyers from a wide range of expertise such as: Litigation, Labor & Employment, Intellectual Property, Patents, Civil Rights, Healthcare, Sports and Entertainment and Technology. In addition to these areas above, we selected attorneys who have ground-breaking experience in unique areas such as Cybercrime and Mobile Payments.

The lawyers who are recognized in Savoy's Corporate Counsel listing represent an impressive group of corporate executives in the public and private sectors who are "blazing trails" in the legal profession as well as setting the tone for emerging business leaders. As advisors to the "movers and shakers" in global organizations, these distinguished legal eagles continue set the standards for others to follow and work diligently to "level the playing field" as well as "reach back" to bring others forward. We salute all of our honorees.

We know that there are many Black lawyers in the legal profession who are doing an exceptional job for their firm and their community. We encourage you to continue your efforts to protect the rights of all and to continue to encourage the much needed diversity and inclusion in the legal profession. We look forward to including you in *Savoy's Most Influential Black Lawyers*.



**Allegra J. Lawrence-Hardy**  
Partner, Co-Head of the  
Labor & Employment Team  
Sutherland Asbill  
& Brennan LLP

**A**llegra Lawrence-Hardy is a member of the firm's Executive Committee and co-heads Sutherland's Labor and Employment team and Business Litigation team. She has successfully defended Fortune 100 companies throughout the United States and abroad in numerous trials, arbitrations and other forms of alternative dispute resolution. Allegra is known for her skill in trying cases, negotiating complex settlements, and finding creative solutions.

An integral member of the firm's award-winning Legal Project Management program, Allegra helps develop processes and tools for improving the efficiency and delivery of legal services.

Allegra often shares her deep litigation knowledge as a prolific author and sought-after speaker. While serving as chair of Sutherland's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, she developed Sutherland Scholars, a summer pre-law school "boot camp" offered at no cost for students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

Lawrence-Hardy also has supported various nonprofit organizations including the Atlanta Legal Aid Society, the Georgia Legal Services Foundation, the Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta, the Fernbank Museum of Natural History, the Atlanta Girls' School, Zoo Atlanta, and the Children's Museum of Atlanta.



**Tanya Lawson**  
Partner  
Sedgwick LLP

**T**anya Lawson is a Partner in the Miami office of Sedgwick LLP, an AmLaw 200 international litigation and business law firm. Ms. Lawson manages the toxic torts practice in the firm's Miami office and is responsible for managing litigation state-wide for several of the firm's Fortune 500 clients.

In addition to defending asbestos and silica cases, she has also represented clients in other products liability, commercial and employment litigation.

Ms. Lawson held the role of Co-Chair of Sedgwick's Inclusion and Diversity Committee. She led firm programs to increase the pipeline of diverse

lawyers, and implemented strategies to increase recruitment, retention and advancement of the firm's diverse attorneys.

Outside of Sedgwick, Ms. Lawson actively participates in the Defense Research Institute's Diversity Committee and is also Co-Chair of Lawyers for Civil Justice's Diversity Committee.

Ms. Lawson is admitted to the Florida, Georgia, New York and New Jersey Bars. She received her J.D. from Cornell Law School in 1991. She received her B.A. in Economics, with honors, from Florida International University in 1988.



**Denise J. Lewis**  
Partner, Founder of the  
Urban Redevelopment Practice  
Honigman Miller Schwartz  
and Cohn LLP

**D**enise J. Lewis is a Senior Partner at Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP. As the founder of the firm's Urban Redevelopment practice, Lewis leads a national practice engaged in representing developers in projects in major urban centers across the U.S., from residential projects in Los Angeles to a casino development in Baltimore to a regional shopping mall in Miami.

She is a respected expert in handling complex transactions that include public/private partnerships and mixed-use development. Lewis concentrates her practice in structuring multi-tiered transactions involving hotels, office buildings, apartment complexes and retail developments.

Denise is widely recognized for her writing and her work with urban redevelopment projects that include historic preservation, zoning and tax incentive issues.

She was the first minority in Michigan to be elected to the prestigious American College of Real Estate Lawyers. Lewis is distinguished in the real estate industry serving on the board of the national Real Estate Executive Council. She is a member of the firm's Board of Directors.

Denise received her BA degree with honors from Columbia University and her JD degree with honors from the University of Michigan Law School.



**Michelle N. Lipkowitz**  
Partner  
Saul Ewing LLP

**M**ichelle N. Lipkowitz has built a legal career focused on handling complex commercial litigation in state and federal courts throughout Maryland and across the country.

As a partner in the Commercial Litigation Practice at Saul Ewing LLP, she represents clients in the financial, retail, telecommunications and many other industries in matters including contractual disputes, consumer class actions, construction and products liability and bankruptcy issues.

Lipkowitz also serves as chair of the firm's Diversity & Inclusion Committee. During her tenure in this role, Saul Ewing has received multiple honors in the diversity field. She also has been

recognized for her legal work and her dedication to mentoring diverse young lawyers, law school students and high school students on career development and the challenges of becoming and succeeding as a lawyer.

Some of her recent honors are her inclusion on the 2013 Nation's Best Advocates: 40 Lawyers Under 40 list compiled by the National Bar Association and IMPACT and her selection for "The Distinguished Women's Award" from the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland in 2014.

Michelle earned her law degree from Georgetown University Law Center and her Bachelor's degree from Harvard University.