Panelists:

Susan Ardisson

Susan Ardisson provides computer forensic and electronic discovery consulting services to the region’s law firms and companies. She is a founding principal of bit-x-bit, LLC, and Chief Executive Officer of the company, and is responsible for the business, legal and project management work of the company. Her work includes assisting clients in the preservation, collection and searching of electronically stored information, and all phases of electronic discovery. Susan is fluent with the interplay of legal and technical issues and the evolving body of e-discovery case law. She has been a court-appointed expert for electronic discovery and computer forensics issues. She regularly assists clients with meeting the requirements of Rule 26(f) conferences, and preparing e-discovery protocols to address such issues as phasing of e-discovery, preservation of electronically stored information, identification of key repositories of potentially relevant information, search methodology, testing and sampling of data, and segregation of privileged information. She is a frequent writer and speaker on computer forensic and electronic discovery issues.

Prior to forming bit-x-bit, Susan practiced business litigation in San Francisco, California, handling all aspects of litigation including motions to compel, protective orders, summary judgments, arbitrations, court trials, post-trial motions and appeals. Susan is a member of the State Bar of California and has practiced before state and federal courts in California, including the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal, and is admitted to practice before the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Melanie Harrington

Melanie Harrington serves as the first President and CEO of Vibrant Pittsburgh, a nonprofit economic development organization that was established to build a more diverse and inclusive Pittsburgh region by spearheading initiatives to attract, retain, and elevate a diverse workforce. From 2001 to 2010 Melanie served as the president of the American Institute for Managing Diversity, Inc. (AIMD), a national nonprofit diversity think tank founded by Dr. R. Roosevelt Thomas, Jr. and based in Atlanta, Georgia. As president, Melanie directed a broad range of initiatives.


She currently serves on the Boards of Sustainable Pittsburgh; the Downtown Pittsburgh Partnership; the YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh; and the Diversity Collegium (an international think tank of diversity practitioners). She is an expert panelist for the 2016 Edition of the Global Diversity and Inclusion Benchmarks and a graduate of both Leadership Pittsburgh and Leadership Atlanta.

Melanie received her Juris Doctorate from Emory University School of Law and her B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania in Psychology.
David Mathews

David Mathews graduated with his Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology from the University of Pittsburgh in 2007. For five years he worked for UPMC performing mental health therapy in an acute care psychiatric facility. David graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law in 2015. While in law school, he interned with President Judge Gary Caruso of the Court of Common Pleas of Westmoreland County, and clerked for Patberg, Carmody & Ging. Currently, he serves as the Legal & Legislative Advisor for the Center for Organ Recovery & Education (CORE). CORE is one of 58 federally designated non-profit Organ Procurement Organizations. The organization is responsible for facilitating all organ donation and transplant activities in Western Pennsylvania and all of West Virginia.

Abby Wilson

Abby Wilson is Deputy Director for Policy at the Allegheny County Health Department. In 2014, she completed her term as founding director of the federal government’s first design-led innovation lab, where she worked with The White House and over a dozen federal agencies to develop more user-friendly policies and services. She previously led LUMA Institute’s public and social sector program, whose clients include the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, U.S. General Services Administration, City of Grand Rapids, American Cancer Society, Digital Promise, United Way and the Pittsburgh Foundation. She remains a member of LUMA Institute’s teaching community.

An anthropologist, lawyer, and service designer by training, Abby believes good public policy is built iteratively and collaboratively, with a deep understanding of the lives affected by it.

She holds a B.A. in Cultural Anthropology from Columbia University, an LL.M. in Public International Law from Universiteit Utrecht and a J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh. She is a professionally trained alto and seasoned theatrical improviser. Her work has been featured in The New York Times, Newsweek, ‘The News Hour with Jim Lehrer,’ the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Cleveland’s The Plain-Deler, and NPR affiliates in Buffalo, Cleveland, and Detroit.

Moderator:

Chris Miller

Chris Miller, Esq. provides career advising services to lawyers in transition through Miller Career Consulting. She is a long-time member of the ACBA whose past career advising experience includes leadership of Pitt Law’s career development department and service as an advisor and director of J.D. Counseling at The George Washington University Law School. In addition, she served as pre-law advisor and Director of Career Development at Chatham University, and was responsible for coordination of firm-wide diversity initiatives, the mentoring program, and lawyer and law student recruiting in the D.C. office of Jones Day.

ACBA Nonpracticing Attorneys and Legal Professionals Committee Purpose Statement

This Committee shall address and represent the needs of nonpracticing attorneys and legal professionals by sponsoring professional and career development programs, CLE programs and networking events. The Committee will promote the recruitment, inclusion and retention in the ACBA of nonpracticing attorneys, legal professionals and law students exploring JD advantage careers while building relationships between practicing and nonpracticing lawyers of the ACBA via cross-referrals and networking opportunities. The Committee will benefit the ACBA and its members by leveraging the diverse skill set of nonpracticing attorneys and legal professionals.

For more information on the committee or to join, please contact Michele Greenway, Director of Membership and CLE at mgreenway@acba.org or 412.402.6610.