

## CORPORATE COUNSEL

### THE 2024 WIPL AWARDS: LAW FIRM AWARDS

SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

#### DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION CHAMPION WINNER

**• Briefly tell us about your career so far.**

I am very proud that I have had the opportunity to be instrumental in Greenberg Traurig's implementation of The Diversity Lab's Mansfield Rule Certification program. Recently, the firm achieved Mansfield Rule 6.0 Certified Plus status. Only half of firms certified attained the Plus status.

A commercial litigator with nearly 25 years of experience, I am also proud to be able to utilize that experience to create meaningful connections with clients that further advance a more diverse legal progression and have a positive impact on a region's or sector's economic development. As an example, recently I helped develop various DEI-focused collaborations with a global investment bank, a multinational convenience restaurant, a client in an HBCU pipeline initiative, and a multinational investment bank and financial services company.



Nikki Lewis Simon  
*Greenberg Traurig*

**• What has been the most significant barrier/challenge in your career and how did you overcome it?**

My route was an unexpected one. Becoming a shareholder was important to me, and I was the first lawyer in my family. As a first-generation college graduate and trained print journalist, I chose law to make a difference in the lives of others. As part of this mission, I help train and mentor the next generation of lawyers to carry this mantle. Therefore, many of the situations in which I found myself were very new and unique to me. Without mentors and sponsors, my path would have been that much more complicated and difficult.

**• What is the best leadership advice you've given or received, and why do you think it was effective?**

Allies and sponsors are key to making a real-life impact on the careers of women and diverse individuals and a true impact on the ability of a law firm to move the needle forward on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Creating opportunities for all our professionals is central to our firm culture and to what we offer clients regarding teams that have diverse backgrounds, experience, and outlooks. My approach is focused on implementing intentional and transformative actions, four of which I believe are key to creating a solid base for a variety of businesses: being courageous, making room for everyone at the table, meeting people where they are, and sharing our stories.