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LCLD Fellows Program Leadership Lunch: *Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP and Caterpillar*

Tuesday, April 23, 2013

12:00 pm EDT

Hosted by Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

New York, NY

Speakers:

**Wes Blumenshine, General Counsel and Secretary of Caterpillar Financial Services Corporation and Caterpillar Insurance Holdings Inc.; Deputy General Counsel of Caterpillar Inc.
Kim Koopersmith, Partner & Chairperson of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP**



WES BLUMENSHINE is General Counsel and Secretary of Caterpillar Financial Services Corporation and Caterpillar Insurance Holdings Inc. in Nashville, Tennessee, and Deputy General Counsel of Caterpillar Inc. with additional responsibilities as Caterpillar's Diversity Counsel and the Caterpillar Law and Public Policy Division's Information Technology, Diversity and Inclusion, 6 Sigma, and Business Risk Management Manager. He also serves on the Steering Committee of the Caterpillar Political Action Committee and is sponsor of the Caterpillar Financial Military Support Network.

Mr. Blumenshine began his career with The Procter & Gamble Company in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1986. He joined Caterpillar in Peoria, Illinois in 1988. During his career at Caterpillar he has held numerous positions including Asia Pacific General Counsel, Caterpillar Logistics General Counsel, Deputy General Counsel with responsibility for Litigation, Employment, Labor, and Benefits, and Assistant General Intellectual Property Counsel.

Mr. Blumenshine received his law degree cum laude from Northern Illinois University College of Law, his Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Bradley University, and his Master's Degree with Distinction in Business Administration from the University of Manchester.

Mr. Blumenshine currently serves on the Bradley University College of Civil Engineering & Construction Advisory Board, 2007–Present, and on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Martha O'Bryan Center in Nashville, Tennessee, 2011–Present. His other philanthropic activities have included the Board of Directors of Easter Seals Peoria, 2004–2012, Easter Seals Peoria Campaign Co-Chairman, 2005 and 2006, Cabinet Member of the Lyle Finch Claybird Classic, 2004–Present, Cabinet Member of the Central Illinois Multiple Sclerosis Wingshooters Classic, 2005–Present, Salvation Army Bell Ringer 2004–2008, Multiple Sclerosis Society of Central Illinois Council 2005–2007, Chairman of Caterpillar Financial United Way Campaign, 1996 and 1997, and Junior Achievement Teacher, 1989–1990.

Mr. Blumenshine and his wife of 27 years, Stacey, have three children: Wade, who is a 1L at Northern Illinois University College of Law; Paige, who is a senior at Bradley University and who will be attending Saint Louis University School of Law in the fall; and Drew, who is a sophomore at Bradley University and who also plans to attend law school.

In his free time Wes enjoys friends and family, golfing, bicycling, walking, reading, and volunteering to help those in need.



KIM KOOPERSMITH is the Chairperson of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP. Prior to serving in this role, she was the firm's United States Managing Partner, overseeing the operations of the firm, including client service, finance, recruitment, and professional development. In addition, she has chaired the Partner Compensation Committee and the Partnership Admissions Committee.

Practice & Background

Ms. Koopersmith's practice has focused on litigating complex commercial disputes on behalf of corporate entities, including consumer class actions, representing creditors' committees in complex bankruptcy proceedings, and representing foreign interests litigating claims in the U.S. courts. Ms. Koopersmith also has extensive experience in the New York state court system and is fully versed in effectively litigating in that forum. In addition to her active career as a litigation partner, Ms. Koopersmith has also served as the relationship partner for several of the firm's most significant clients.

Throughout her career, Ms. Koopersmith has also helped pioneer many of Akin Gump's efforts to enhance diversity and attract and retain the best talent. She has overseen the creation of the Women's Professional Development Initiative and development of the firm's core competency program. She has also been instrumental in the firm's diversity efforts, including the firm's participation in numerous scholarships and pipeline efforts.

Ms. Koopersmith has received industry and media recognition for her efforts and accomplishments in making Akin Gump a diverse and dynamic organization. In 2011, she was the recipient of *InsideCounsel's* Transformative Leadership Award, presented annually to a law firm leader whose "courage, unyielding vision, integrity, conviction and authenticity has carved a groundbreaking path and laid a new foundation to accelerate the economic empowerment of attorneys of color or women." More recently, *Law360* selected her as one of its "2012 Most Innovative Managing Partners," citing "almost two decades creating and expanding advancement opportunities for women and minorities both inside and outside of the firm, making her among the most innovative leaders at U.S. firms."

Community Involvement

Ms. Koopersmith is involved in numerous community, civic, and charitable activities, including serving on the board of Equal Justice Works, which works to facilitate opportunities and financial support for law students and law school graduates who seek to pursue a career in public service, and overseeing the firm's corporate partner relationship with inMotion.

Awards & Accolades

"2012 Most Innovative Managing Partner: Akin Gump's Kim Koopersmith," *Law360* (October 5, 2012) and "Transformative Leadership Award" from *InsideCounsel* (December 2011)

Bar Admissions

New York

Court Admissions

U.S.C.A., 2nd Circuit; U.S.C.A., 3rd Circuit; U.S.D.C., Eastern District of New York; U.S.D.C., Southern District of New York; and U.S. Supreme Court

Education

J.D. Fordham University School of Law, 1984 and B.A. University of Pennsylvania, cum laude, 1981