

## A Celebration of D.C. Black History

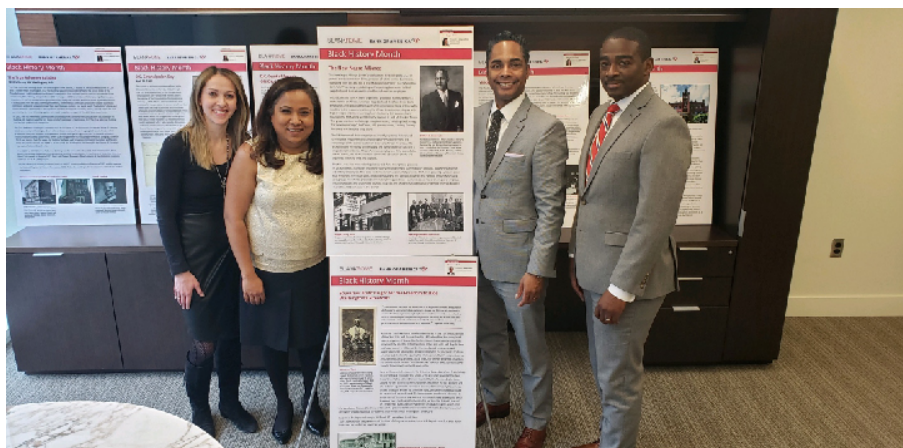
On February 6, 2020, Saminaz Akhter (Partner, Corporate, Blank Rome LLP) and Larry Chattoo (Associate General Counsel and Senior Vice President, Bank of America), two 2015 LCLD Fellows, who met and developed a relationship as a result of the LCLD program, co-hosted a very special Black History Month event in Blank Rome's Washington, D.C., office.

Local Bank of America and Blank Rome professionals gathered for an inspiring celebration and educational discussion about the historic places and events that helped shape Washington, D.C.'s remarkable black history. A hallmark of this annual event is that Blank Rome professionals research and profile aspects of the city's rich black history and work with the Firm's internal design team to create large easels that highlight what they have learned. The easels incorporate historic photos from sources, including the Historical Society of Washington, D.C., Moorland-Spingarn Research Center at Howard University, the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, and the Scurlock Studio Records—Archives Center at the National Museum of American History, among other sources. The designs are available to view [here](#).

This year's event included a presentation of the easels and remarks about the Scurlock Studio from David Haberstich, Curator of Photography for the Archives Center at the National Museum of American History. The program also featured a private screening of the short film *Black Broadway on U Street*, which sheds light on the under-told story of African American life within Washington, D.C.'s U Street Corridor from the early 1910s to late 1950, and remarks from the film's creator, Emmy Award-winning multimedia producer Shellée Haynesworth.

This event was a true LCLD Fellow collaboration and had an impact on both organizations beyond this one program. The easels are now on display in Blank Rome's Washington, D.C., office as well as local Bank of America offices. In addition, other organizations have expressed interest in the project. We are all excited to experience the impact that this event and project has on so many people.

For additional information, please contact Saminaz Akhter at [sakhter@blankrome.com](mailto:sakhter@blankrome.com) or 202.420.2730.



Rachel Sapperstein (Director of Marketing, Blank Rome LLP) and Saminaz Akhter (Partner, Corporate, Blank Rome LLP) delivered copies of the easels to Larry Chattoo (Associate General Counsel and Senior Vice President, Bank of America) and Derrick Perkins (SVP Market Executive, Bank of America) for display throughout their office.



**A Celebration of D.C. Black History Easel Presentation, February 6, 2020**  
Clockwise from upper left: Dominique Casimir (Partner, Government Contracts, Blank Rome LLP), Steven Roman (Partner, Government Contracts, Blank Rome LLP), Lamiya Rahman (Associate, Energy, Blank Rome LLP), and Emanuel Faust (Partner, Corporate, Blank Rome LLP)



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