

Kori Carew

Director of Strategic Diversity Initiatives, Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP



Koriambanya (Kori) Carew leads all efforts related to Shook, Hardy & Bacon’s primary diversity and inclusion drivers of excellence, education, and equity across all of Shook’s offices. She works closely with various firm committees and task forces, as well as Human Resources and administrative operations, on the recruitment, hiring, development, engagement, and advancement of attorneys from underrepresented groups. She is a nationally sought-after speaker on diversity and inclusion, change management, inclusive leadership, cultural fluency, and talent engagement and development topics.

Kori uses her strategic, analytical, and persuasive skills developed as a trial attorney as well as her experiences as an immigrant black female attorney in majority firms and as a member of a family that is multiracial, multinational, and multireligious to lead others in difficult conversations on diversity, confronting key inclusion barriers and engaging others in strategy development and execution. She identifies pathways for professionals from underrepresented groups to leverage opportunities for career success by addressing organizational barriers and change management, equipping diverse talent for success. Kori focuses her work on empowering leaders to interrupt bias and manage diverse teams inclusively and crafting solutions to disrupt organizational systems and structural barriers to achieve equitable results.

Kori’s commitment to diversity and inclusion has been clearly demonstrated by her dedicated service to professional and community organizations, such as currently serving as chair of the Defense Research Institute’s Diversity & Inclusion Subcommittee of the Women in the Law Committee. Kori is an active member of the Jackson County Bar Association Foundation, which has provided diversity scholarships since 1998 to minority students attending four area law schools and provides support and sponsorship to a variety of education programs consistent with promoting diversity and inclusion and the interests of the African-American legal community. As a member of the Missouri Joint Commission on Women in the Profession, she has delivered and facilitated groundbreaking training on gender bias and advancement of women in the workplace. She serves on the boards of Newhouse Women’s Shelter, the Jackson County Bar Association Foundation, SHB Foundation, Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Foundation, and the Diversity Guidance Team at her church. She also regularly contributes as a CLE speaker on a variety of diversity and inclusion topics for the Missouri Bar.

A graduate of Drake University Law School, Kori was a partner at a regional litigation boutique firm with a national product liability footprint; her practice focused on general civil litigation, torts, product liability, and employment law. Before that, Kori litigated labor and employment law cases on behalf of employers and for a metropolitan school district. Her work led to her recognition as a “Rising Star” by *Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers* and one of the “Best of the Bar” by the *Kansas City Business Journal*. When she is not focused on creating belonging in the legal profession, Kori is teaching her two strong-willed daughters to dance in public, reading, dreaming of the beach, and giving back to her community with her husband at her side.



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