

Education: Morgan State University (B.A. Political Science); Columbia Law School (J.D.)

Company Name: Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP

Industry: Law

Company CEO: Peter Tomlinson & Dahlia Doumar

Company Headquarters Location: New York, NY

Number of Employees: 329

Words you live by: "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?" –Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Who is your personal hero: Frederick Douglass

What book are you reading: *The Sum of Us* by Heather McGhee

What was your first job: Assistant Business Manager, Student Government Association - Morgan State University

Favorite charity: Young Scholars' Institute, Trenton, New Jersey

Interests/Hobbies: Jazz Festivals, Sporting Events, Theater, Movies, Food & Wine Festivals

Family: Married, 3 Children



Helping Others Reach Their Goals

No one - and, I mean, no one - succeeds in the legal profession, business or life without guidance and sponsorship from others who are in a position to help advance one's career. All of us have needed help with our career advancement on multiple occasions, and that assistance has been given by others who believed in our potential. So, put out of your mind the myth of a self-made woman or self-made man. That person simply doesn't exist. Our professional successes are the product of people who pushed us ahead and spoke well about us to others.

What's needed today? Return that favor. We must act affirmatively to give others the guidance, en-

couragement, and wisdom (hopefully) we have repeatedly received from those who cared about us. We must share information about opportunities, push one another to pursue identified options, and help one another succeed once the opportunity has been achieved. It is not a zero-sum game; that is, your "win" is my "loss." No. We can and should win together, be happy about one another's success, and commensurate with one another when it doesn't quite work out so well.

One other thing to remember: for those who are in positions of authority to decide or influence who is hired within and by our organiza-

tions, we must make every effort to eliminate the roadblocks that interfere or preclude the advancement of African Americans, Latinx and other people of color. Once you have ascended to a position of authority, don't become special. Don't develop amnesia about how you achieved your own success. More is required of you. Help others reach their goals; and help them purposely. We hold many of the keys to our collective success. We owe it to those who fought long before us to undertake a sustained commitment to create the environment for each of us to have a fair chance to succeed. Our actions, or inactions, today will determine our tomorrow.