



November 20, 2016

2016 Florida Legal Diversity Summit

On October 21, 2016, the Florida Diversity Council held its 2nd Annual Florida Legal Diversity Summit at the Mahaffey Theater in St. Petersburg. The purpose of this event was to highlight the importance of diversity and inclusion efforts in the legal realm and to promote discussion and dialogue about industry-specific diversity and inclusion topics.

This year's theme was "Sharing Strategies to Promote Diversity & Inclusion Within Law Firms." The panel session opened the event with local legal professionals discussing their experiences championing diversity & inclusion



within their law firms and how they've been able to generate important dialogue about how outside and in-house counsel can support each other in achieving diversity and inclusion goals. Keynote speaker Gwynne Young spoke about her experiences as Past President of the Florida Bar and how diversity & inclusion became an integral part of the organization during her term in the role. Following the keynote address attendees participated in roundtable discussions based on local case studies on diversity within the legal field. Attendees left the summit equipped with knowledge and best practices gained from the speakers on best practices that they could take back to their own organizations.

The Florida Diversity Council would like to thank the event planning committee, speakers, volunteers, and attendees who helped bring this event to fruition. A special thanks is also given to the event sponsor, Duke Energy, without which the Florida Legal Diversity Summit would not have been possible.

Photos from the event are available [here](#).

Event Chair:

- Kathryn Christian, Senior Counsel with *Duke Energy Florida, Inc.*

Keynote Speaker:

- Gwynne Young, Past President of *The Florida Bar & Shareholder at Carlton Fields, P.A.*

Panelists:

- Tracey Jaensch, Regional Managing Partner at *FordHarrison LLP*
- Erik Matheney, Partner at *Shutts & Bowen, LLP*
- Nancy Faggianelli, Shareholder & Chief Diversity Officer at *Carlton Fields, P.A.*