

DALLAS BUSINESS JOURNAL

LEADERS IN DIVERSITY

Amber Rogers is setting the table for Black women in law

Amber Rogers was honored in the Dallas Business Journal's Leaders in Diversity Awards live event on March 3.

Amber Rogers is the first African American woman to be elected to Hunton Andrews Kurth's Executive Committee, and she's using her positions to support other women in the legal field.

She serves as the Dallas office's hiring partner, co-chairs of the Dallas office's Diversity Committee and the firm's Diversity Oneness Luncheon series. The luncheon series gathers the firm's racial and ethnic minority attorneys to talk about business development, career growth and the importance of diversity to clients.

She's a founding member of the New Roundtable, a group of women that works to "unapologetically and intentionally" invest in each other's careers. She said the organization is one of her most meaningful accomplishments because they decided to create a seat at the table rather than passively wait for career opportunities.

"I remain hopeful that improvements will occur. I have many years (or decades) left in my career, and believe we will see a day when it is normal to have more than one Black woman at the table," she said.

Rogers told the Business Journal more about her work:

What were your biggest accomplishments in advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion within your community over the past year?

I am most proud of my commitment to seeing African-American women succeed in their chosen legal arena. Co-founding the group, NEW Roundtable has ensured that we actively, unapologetically and in-



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tionally invested in each other's careers. Founding the organization is one of the most meaningful accomplishments because we decided to create our seat at the table rather than passively wait for career opportunities.

The NEW Roundtable's members were also instrumental in bringing the Diverse Attorney Pipeline Program (DAPP) to Dallas, which paired law firms with in-house legal departments to provide summer clerkships for women of color.

What is something people aren't thinking about that will change your industry in the future?

As the current social atmosphere demonstrates, allies are important and will play a critical role in progressing Black women's careers. The NEW Roundtable has worked to create a network of "Influencers" who are bought-in to the organization's mission and working together to enhance and grow the careers of Black women attorneys.

ABOUT HUNTON ANDREWS KURTH

2020 Revenue: \$743M

Employees (DFW/Overall): 140/1,670

Website: huntonak.com