

NINA FAIN, ESQ.
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CAREER PROFILE

Having been among the first African Americans and women to become a partner in major law firms in Chicago, Nina Fain is a lawyer with a unique background. Fain has transacted business for clients in England, Germany, Poland, Japan, China, Israel, France, Mexico, Canada, Brazil, Russia, and the Caribbean. Her knowledge of complex corporate transactions, economic development, real estate and finance has allowed her to provide effective representation to both public and private clients for more than two decades. While maintaining the highest standards of ethics and professionalism, Fain has worked with colleagues and trained numerous associates, with an interest in diversity and retention of women lawyers and lawyers of color in these firms. Her leadership, interest and focus on education and continuing legal education for professionals is derived from her academic background.

In addition to Juris Doctor from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, Fain holds a Bachelor of Science in Education, and a Master of Science in Education Administration from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois. As a Senior Fellow, studied corporate strategy at the University of Texas-Dallas in its Graduate School of Business Management's Institute for Corporate Governance and was a member of its inaugural class for women who were trained to sit on publicly-traded corporate boards. Fain is nationally recognized as a trailblazer in many organizations where she developed smart strategies to acquire corporate business clients and be a profitable member in law firms. In addition to her career as a corporate lawyer advising senior management in complex business, public finance, and real estate transactions, Fain has served as an Adjunct Professor in the Graduate School of Public Policy at DePaul University and the Graduate School of Business at Roosevelt University. Also, she has combined her love of teaching with various community board leadership positions, serving on the Francis W. Parker School Alumni Association Board, Homes for Children Foundation, and the Field Museum Board of Trustees.

Fain's experience on the Field Museum board allowed her to use her educational background, working with the award-winning Cultural Connections program and her transactional and public finance background when Fain served on the Field's Audit and Pension, Finance and Endowment Committees. She has been a frequent lecturer for both corporate and non-profit organizations, with her expertise in corporate training focused on alternative dispute resolution methodologies, leadership, and implicit bias. Fain is bilingual and speaks, writes and translates Spanish for business matters. She also has a working knowledge of French. Finally, Fain maintains strong ties to the Chicago south side community where she grew up. To this day, she serves as the volunteer counsel to the Southeast Calumet Homeowners Association and its 3,000 members. Nina's broad-based background in education, business, and law, along with her deep-rooted community ties makes her a unique asset to the legal community and Chicago-at large.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Trust Counsel. JSS Family Trusts, Chicago, IL, Pasadena, CA, & Prague, Czechoslovakia

As Counsel, responsibilities included assignments related to general corporate matters and the acquisition, financing, leasing and disposition of commercial and real estate assets in the United States and Europe. Also, responsibilities include the management or settlement of all pending and threatened litigation. To oversee outside counsel related to commercial litigation. (March 2008 - Present).

Partner. Holland & Knight, LLP, Chicago, IL

Responsibilities included management of lawyers and paralegals in the representation of clients in complex commercial, corporate and litigation matters. (September 2002 - January 2008).

Partner. McBride Baker & Coles, LLC Chicago, IL

Responsibilities included management of lawyers and paralegals in the representation of clients in complex commercial, corporate and litigation matters. (December 1993 - August 2002).

Partner. Gottlieb & Schwartz, P.C., Chicago, IL

Responsibilities included management of lawyers and paralegals in the representation of clients in complex commercial, corporate and litigation matters. (January 1989- October 1993).

Corporation Counsel. ETY Engineering Inc., Chicago, IL

To advise a U.S. partner of a British-Israeli manufacturing joint venture formed to design, engineer, manufacture and sell electronic component parts to U. S., French and Israeli defense contractors; to retain and supervise attorneys in litigation defense of claims against company (August 1985- November 1988).

Vice President. Janet Schirn Design Group, ASID, Chicago, IL

Represented corporate client in the negotiation of interior and architectural design assignments. Worked with architects, general contractors, subcontractors and others in the build out and installation of high net worth clients' residential and commercial projects. (1981-1985).

CIVIC & COMMUNITY BOARDS

- Member, Chicago Bar Association Board of Managers, Chicago, Illinois, (2018- present)
- Member, Public interest Law Initiative ("PILI") Board of Directors Chicago, Illinois, (2018-2019)
- Member, Chicago Bar Association Editorial Board, Chicago, Illinois (2017- present)
- Member, Board of Directors, Francis W. Parker Alumni Association, Chicago, IL (2011-2013)
- Member, Board of Directors-Chicago Chapter, (2012 to 2014) and Member, Commercial Real Estate Executive Women Network, Inc., Chicago, IL (2007 -2014)

- Member, Advisory Board, Roosevelt University Marshall Bennet School of Real Estate Chicago, IL (2007- 2010)
Leadership America, Inc., Dallas, Texas. Member, Board of Directors, (2002- 2005)
- The Field Museum Chicago, Illinois. Trustee (2002-2004) Member of the Finance Committee, Audit and Pension Subcommittee; and External Affairs Committee
- National Association of Bond Lawyers, Chicago, Illinois, Member (2002 – 2004)
- State of Illinois Digital Divide Elimination Advisory Committee, Springfield, Illinois Member (2001- 2004)
- Chicago Southland Chamber of Commerce, Co-General Counsel, Commercial Development Committee, Member (1997- 2005)
- Chicago Bar Association Minority Counsel Program, former Co-Chairman (1995-1997)
- Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Transition and Strategic Planning Committee, Technology Co-Chair, 2000-2001
- Member, Board of Directors Leadership America, Inc., Dallas, TX (2002- 2005)
- Member, Board of Directors, Black Women Lawyers Association of Greater Chicago, Chicago, IL (2005-2007)
- Member, Board of Trustees, The Field Museum, Member of the Finance Committee, Audit and Pension Subcommittee; and External Affairs Committee, Chicago, IL, (2002- 2004)
- Member and Co-General Counsel to the Board of Directors, Chicago Southland Chamber of Commerce, Homewood, IL (1997- 2005)

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING

- Fellow, Black Women Lawyers TEA Leadership Program (2017)
- Fellow, University of Texas-at-Dallas Institute for Corporate Governance Positioning Women for Corporate Boards Program, Richardson, TX (2004)
- Senior Fellow, Leadership America, Inc., a leadership program affiliated with the Smithsonian Women's Museum, Dallas, TX (2003)

ACADEMIC & EXECUTIVE TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Adjunct Professor, DePaul University, Graduate School of Public Policy (2003- 2004)

- Executive Trainer, Illinois Association of School Boards (1997-2001)
- Executive Trainer, British Petroleum-Chicago Region (1997-2000)
- Executive Trainer, National Black MBA Association (1994-1996)
- Adjunct Professor, Columbia College, Chicago, Illinois (1992-1994)

BAR ADMISSIONS

- The State of Illinois - ARDC No. 6189918
- The Northern District Court of the United States (Motions Only) (2004)

EDUCATION & HIGHEST DEGREE AWARDED

- Juris Doctor, University of Illinois at Champaign – Urbana (“UICU”), Champaign, IL, (1985)
- Also, hold a Master of Science in Education Administration, and a Bachelor of Science in Education from Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL