

SPONSOR PROFILE

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K&L GATES

A Look at Leadership

What makes a great leader?

A great leader inspires people to believe in themselves and do great things. An effective leader must be selfless, caring, and compassionate. Leaders put the people and the organization first. As Simon Sinek says, "Leaders eat last." There is a difference between being a leader and a manager. A leader inspires. A manager manages and holds people accountable. It is challenging to balance these roles. It is important to be self-aware about what you are trying to accomplish.

What does it mean to you to be a leader at K&L Gates, a global law firm with nearly 4,000 lawyers and allied professionals?

I am honored and humbled by my leadership roles at K&L Gates. During these uncertain and challenging times, I feel the weight of responsibility being one of the leaders of a global law firm. I know and embrace that I am a trailblazer, as very few diverse women professionals have made it to this level (less than 1%). I am grateful that K&L Gates recognizes my talent and has entrusted me to important leadership roles. As an immigrant, who came to this country with very little, I am grateful for the opportunities America has provided. My American journey has not been easy, but the American dream is still a possibility and within reach for many.

What advice would you give someone looking to advance their career and become a leader?

Be curious, be a life-long learner. Seek your own path. Each of us has unique talents. Find your sponsors and mentors and listen to their advice. Be resilient. Life is never fair. Tune out your naysayers. Do not allow others to define who you are or place limits on you. Surround yourself with your believers. It is up to you to drive your career.