Rhode Island Bar Association Leadership Q&A

Meredith Howlett, Esq.



Meredith Howlett is currently an associate attorney at Howlett Law, Inc. focusing her practice on family law, divorce/separation matters, domestic matters, DCYF matters, and child custody matters. She is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts Amherst and Roger Williams University School of Law. As a member of the Rhode Island Bar Association, Meredith has served as the Chair of New Lawyers Committee for the past three years and is a member of the Family Law Bench Bar Committee, the House of Delegates, and the Nominating Committee. Meredith is also a member of the Edward P. Gallogly American Inn of Court. Meredith has been the recipient of RI Monthly's Professional Excellence in the Law designation, has been recognized as a Rising Star in Super Lawyers, and was nationally ranked as "Top 10 under 40" by the National Academy of Family Law Attorneys.

What do diversity and inclusion mean to you, both personally and professionally?

To me, diversity and inclusion means ensuring everyone has a seat at the table. The importance of exposure to different lifestyles and perspectives cannot be understated, even though you may ultimately disagree.

What does it mean to you to have a commitment to diversity and inclusion in the workplace?

Having a commitment to diversity and inclusion in the workplace means I know that my view, as well as the views of my colleagues and coworkers, has value. Validating the ideas and perspectives of others is a sign of respect.

What has been your greatest learning experience as it relates to diversity and inclusion?

My greatest learning experience has been under the training and tutelage of my boss and mentor, who began practicing as a young female attorney in the late 1980's. I have come to understand the challenges she faced as a young female attorney, and I feel inspired to continue to pave the way for young attorneys' participation in the Bar, the courtroom, and in the community.

What do you think the Bar can do to raise awareness regarding Diversity & Inclusion?

I feel the Bar Association could raise awareness regarding diversity and inclusion by being more vocal about the programs and services the Bar Association has to offer. So many lawyers, especially new lawyers, are unaware of the committees and programs available to them. The more participation we have between lawyers and the Bar Association, there are more voices are heard, and there are more seats at the table.