



# THINK FORWARD

## Brinks Gilson & Lione Attorney Jafon Fearson Named Associate Board Member for Chicago's Legal Prep Charter Academy

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CHICAGO—Attorney Jafon Fearson of Brinks Gilson & Lione, one of the nation's largest intellectual property law firms, has been named an Associate Board Member for Chicago-based Legal Prep Charter Academy, a free, open-enrollment public high school founded in 2012 in the West Garfield Park neighborhood of Chicago.

"Since his first day at Brinks, Jafon has distinguished himself by having made a commitment to and an impact at Legal Prep," says Gustavo Siller, a Brinks shareholder and the firm's president. "He has attended events at the Academy and volunteered at Legal Prep service events, and he continues to actively engage and recruit other Brinks associates to attend events sponsored by the Associate Board and get more involved with support to the school."

"Jafon is a great role model," adds Brinks shareholder and attorney Brad Lane, who is vice-chair of the firm's Pro Bono Committee, "We're proud to have so enthusiastic and talented a young attorney at our firm, and we're very pleased he has been recognized by Legal Prep by appointment to its Associate Board."

Legal Prep Charter Academy offers a unique law-themed curriculum and promotes a culture of high expectations to cultivate compassion, self-motivation, and reflection in young adults who in turn are prepared to succeed at outstanding four-year colleges and universities. Its vision is to graduate students who will use their academic and civic education to grow in their professional careers, be advocates for disadvantaged communities, and positively impact society. The Academy strives to be the premier open-enrollment high school on the West Side of Chicago and an exemplar for the entire country.

Brinks's sponsorship of Legal Prep dates to the Academy's establishment in 2012. The firm's early financial commitment enabled Legal Prep to continue building its infrastructure and facilities, including a science laboratory equipped by Brinks. In addition to its financial support, Brinks attorneys—who have backgrounds in the research sciences, math, engineering, and technology, as well as focusing on intellectual property law—serve as tutors, mentors, and guest lecturers at the school.

Fearson has been an active member of Brinks's Legal Prep support team since joining the firm as an associate in 2015. "When I joined Brinks after law school, the opportunity to work closely with Legal Prep was a perfect fit for my interests and my desire to give back to the community," notes Fearson.

Fearson earned his J.D. in 2015 at the University of Missouri School of Law, where he received multiple scholarships and awards, and served as president of the Association of Intellectual Property & Entertainment Law. Fearson was also academic chair of the Black Law Students Association. He holds a B.S. in biomedical engineering from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

"Brinks has long made a special effort to provide pro bono legal advice along with financial support to

organizations in Chicago like Legal Prep," says Siller, who formerly chaired its Diversity Committee and who became the firm's new president on January 1, 2018. "It reflects the priority that Brinks places on promoting diversity and inclusion in the legal profession."

Adds Siller, "We've been a member of this community for more than 100 years. Giving back is part of our DNA."

### **Brinks Gilson & Lione**

*Brinks Gilson & Lione, which celebrated its centennial year in 2017 is one of the largest intellectual property law firms in the US, and helps clients around the world to protect and enforce their intellectual property rights. Brinks Gilson & Lione's more than 130 lawyers, patent agents and scientific advisors assist clients in all aspects of patent, trademark, unfair competition, trade secret, and copyright law. Brinks attorneys provide informed counsel with respect to innovations in a range of complex and valuable technologies, including pharmaceuticals, chemicals, bioengineering, industrial manufacturing, electronics and software, and medical devices. More information is at [www.brinksgilson.com](http://www.brinksgilson.com).*