Featured Member: Trent Hargrove

Trent Hargrove is the Pennsylvania Bar Association’s (PBA) chief diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) officer, where he has held the position since January 2014. Trent had many firsts in his career that laid a foundation for his current DEI work. Two of those firsts: As Pennsylvania’s first Chief Diversity Officer, he managed a major new initiative to evaluate the Commonwealth’s diversity programs and implement best practices. As Pennsylvania Chief Deputy Attorney General for Civil Rights Enforcement, Trent obtained an injunction to remove the Alpha HQ website under the Pennsylvania State Civil Redress statute, which was the first time in U.S. history that a hate website was removed from the internet.

At the PBA, Trent is responsible for overseeing and facilitating its efforts to improve DEI within the PBA and Pennsylvania’s legal profession. Some of his accomplishments during his tenure include the organizing and implementation of diversity business development initiatives, and building stronger connections with the various affinity bars in the commonwealth, including the Philadelphia Barristers, a local chapter of the National Bar Association the nation’s oldest and largest global network of predominantly Black American attorneys and judges, the Hispanic Bar Association of Pennsylvania, the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Pennsylvania and affinity groups within local bar associations.

Trent also serves as faculty for various continuing legal education seminars that promote DEI for all attorneys who feel on the fringe of the profession. This includes attorneys with disabilities, women, minorities, LGBTQ+ and veteran and military attorneys. While the PBA is committed to DEI efforts, it is Trent’s job to make sure the PBA culture sends a message of this priority. This work is sometimes subtle and always challenging.

Trent’s fun fact is that he likes to run and helped train his wife of 38 years for a half marathon.

Congratulations, Trent!