

# BLACK COUNSEL FORUM 2023



SEPTEMBER 30TH -  
OCTOBER 1ST 2023  
BRIGHTON, UK



Transforming the Career  
Trajectory of Black Lawyers

BCF 2023 REPORT



Black Counsel Forum 2023 was a transformative gathering that brought together solicitors, barristers and judges, almost doubling its attendees to 300 in a year. The event's core mission is to empower Black lawyers, provide vital networking opportunities and facilitate their professional development.

Over 40 distinguished speakers, including King's Counsel, General Counsel and law firm partners, engaged in discussions covering a wide array of career strategies, challenges and success stories. Attendees had the opportunity to tailor their learning experience to their specific professional track and level. Parallel sessions covered diverse topics, such as practice development, international career opportunities, health and wellbeing and an interactive case study designed to empower associates to leverage their agency for career advancement.

BCF23 was more than just an event; it was a dynamic platform for empowerment, networking, and learning, bringing together an exceptional community committed to the advancement of Black legal professionals in the UK and beyond.



# BCF23 IN NUMBERS

291

LAW PROFESSIONALS

45+

SPEAKERS

20+

SESSIONS

120+

JOIN THE WAITLIST

107

FIRMS REPRESENTED

20

SPONSORS



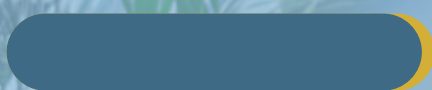
# POST-EVENT SURVEY RESULTS



**98%** of attendees were satisfied or very satisfied with BCF23

**85%**

of attendees met their objectives for BCF23



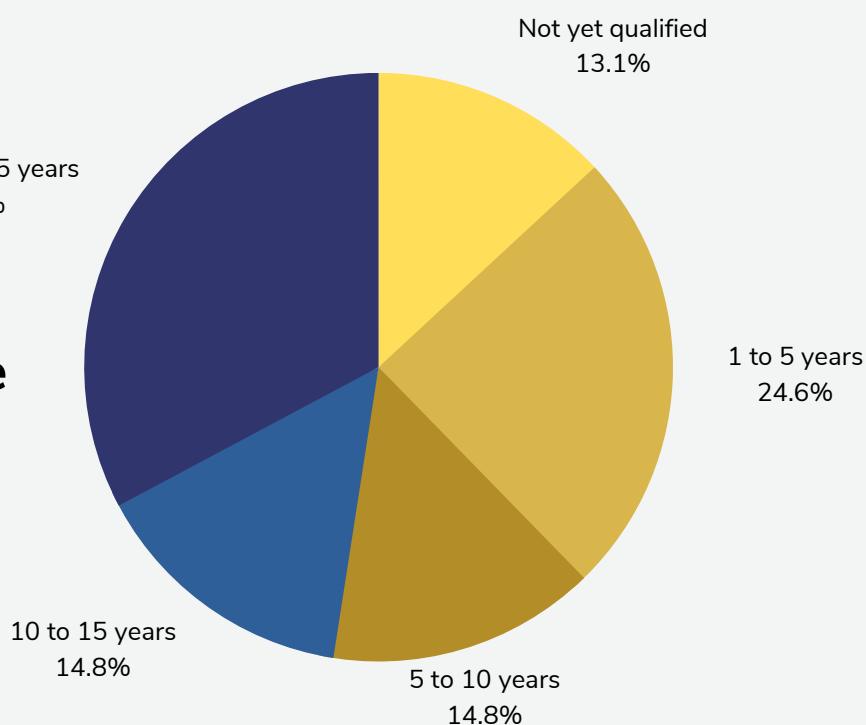
**98%** would like to attend BCF again in the future



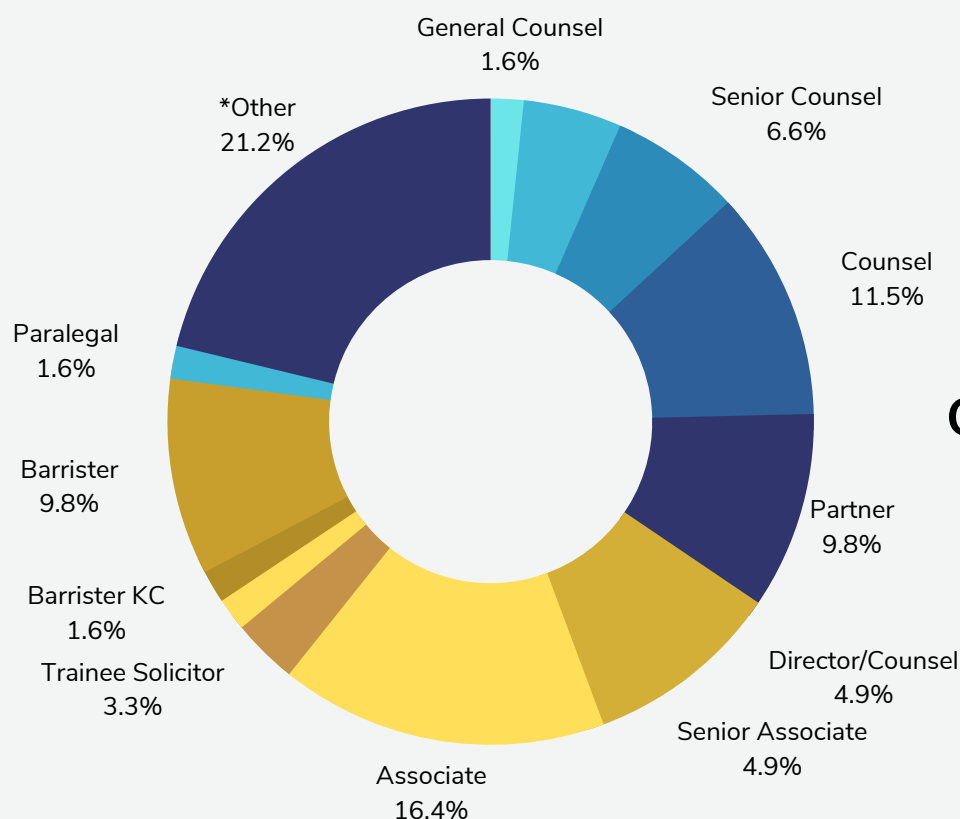


# WHO ATTENDED?

## Years of experience

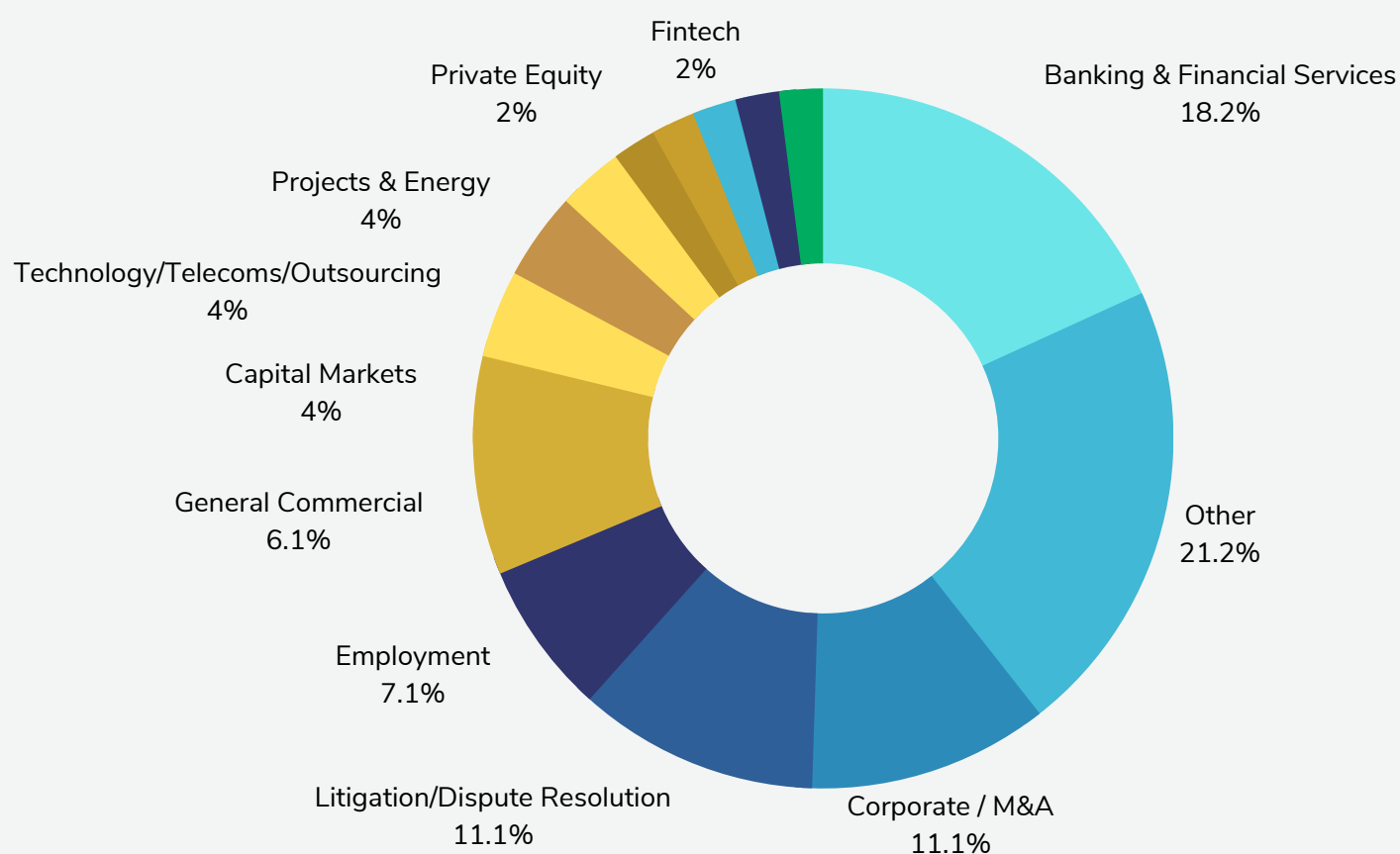


## Current job level



\*Other: Currently General Counsel, General In House, HR, Intellectual Property, Multi specialist, D&I, Financial services, Capital Markets, Asset Management, Intellectual Property and Commercial, Commercial & Consumer, Intellectual Property and Entertainment, Financial Regulation, Regulation & Compliance, Capital markets, Attorney Development, Financial Services Regulation.

# ATTENDEE PRACTICE AREAS



\*Other includes: Competition, tax, construction, DEI, sports, media & entertainment, insurance, government & public law, health, human rights, restructuring & insolvency, environment.

# ATTENDEE FIRMS & COMPANIES





# IMPACTFUL SESSIONS

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR KEY SESSIONS

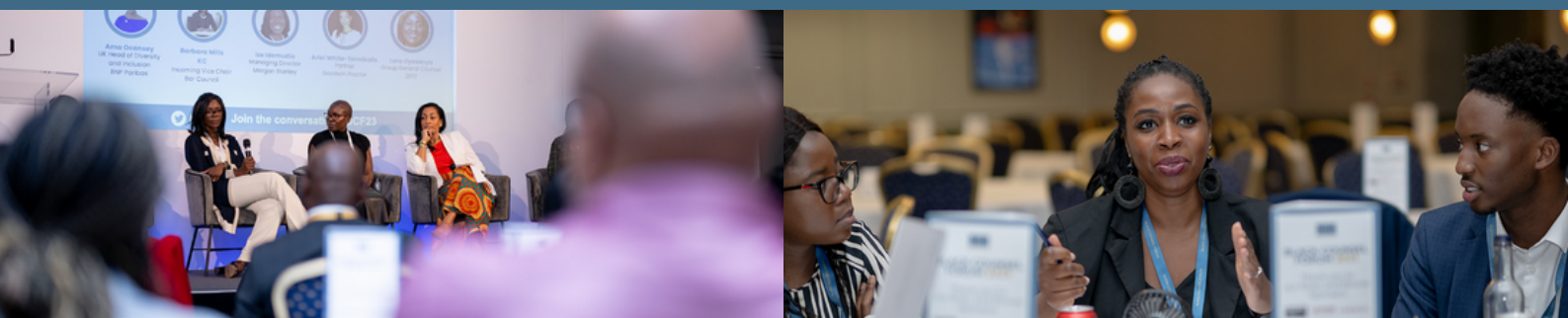
### LEVERAGE YOUR AGENCY: ASSOCIATES CASE STUDY

Interactive session exclusively for Associates coached by law firm partners and HR/diversity leads



### LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE: WHAT CAN WE DO TO MAKE THE LEGAL PROFESSION MORE DIVERSE & INCLUSIVE?

Leading female lawyers shared their ideas for advancing Black lawyers



FULL PROGRAMME AVAILABLE [HERE](#)

# IMPACTFUL SESSIONS

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR KEY SESSIONS

### STAY, GO OR GROW

A framework to assist lawyers to make thoughtful decisions in their careers



### RIISING TO THE CHALLENGE: THRIVING IN MID LEVEL ROLES

Black General Counsel shared roadmaps for career success as an in-house lawyer



### HOW TO BUILD YOUR PRACTICE

Key tips on how to become a rainmaker partner



FULL PROGRAMME AVAILABLE [HERE](#)





# WHAT OUR ATTENDEES SAID...

“ This weekend at Black Counsel Forum 2023 has made that aspiring solicitor from all those years ago proud. Thank you Sharon Thomas and the BCF team for curating a life changing space, which has allowed me to see myself in the greatness of approx. 300 black lawyers.

The event fostered a sense of unity and camaraderie among attendees, providing a supportive environment for networking and mentorship. Through engaging discussions and interactive workshops, participants were able to expand their professional networks while also gaining new perspectives on navigating the legal profession.

“ Truly exceptional fireside chat keynote from Werten Bellamy and Ricky Raven at Black Counsel Forum!! My life really has been changed. Just speechless with a notebook full of gems. #BCF23

My perspective has gone through somewhat of a renaissance. I can't wait to implement the new ideas and lessons learned. All the speakers were incredibly inspiring and what is apparent to me is: “Where there is smoke there is ALWAYS fire...”. It's just not the fire people expected.... but the sparks in our minds, ignited by this event that can never be extinguished!





# BCF23 FACULTY



Gavin Lewis



Harry Matovu



Lorna Nsoatabe



Conway Blake



Bianca René



Yindi Gesinde



Jason Parker



Jennie Dorsaint



Vanya Bromfield



Sharon Blackman



James Hanlon



Sally Penni



Joan Scott



Judith Olloh



Paulette Mastin



Justina Omotayo



Michael Salau



Solomon Wifa



Kizzy Augustin



Ikwu Amiaka

# BCF23 FACULTY



Elaine Banton



Bibi Badejo



Barbara Mills



Leah Brown



Ize Idemudia



Ariel  
White-Tsimikalis



Lara Oyesanya



Ama Ocansey



David Ziyambi



Ricky Raven



Werten Bellamy



Naylah Hamour



Samuel Ogunlaja



Timi Balogun



Melinda C. Albert



Martin Forde



Jacqueline  
Mckenzie



Terence Channer



Stephen  
Akinsanya



Akima Paul-Lambert

# BCF23 FACULTY



Fudia Smartt



Paul Mcfarlane



Emma Haywood



Trevor James



Nicolina Andall



Annabel  
Tagoe-Bannerman



Sheree- Ann  
Abrahams





# NETWORKING & MORE



TEAM  
BUILDING

NETWORKING



MUSIC

ENTERTAINMENT



DJ

SOCA WORKOUT



GALA DINNER

AWARDS





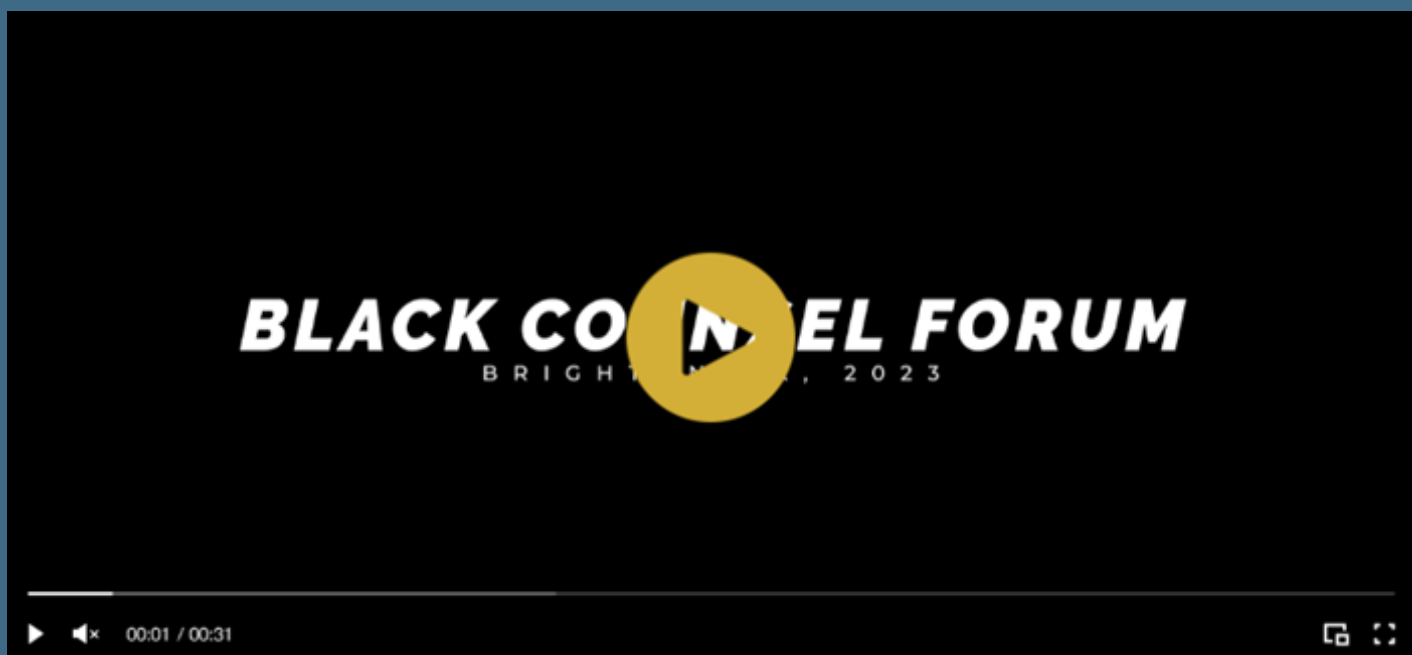
# PHOTO GALLERY



YOU CAN VIEW THE FULL EVENT  
GALLERY [HERE](#)



# HIGHLIGHTS VIDEO



[CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE VIDEO](#)







# BCF23 PARTNERS

## Headline Sponsor

**SLAUGHTER AND MAY**

## Gold Sponsors



**GOODWIN**



**HSBC**

## Silver Sponsors



**Linklaters**



**Morgan Stanley**



**WHITE & CASE**

**NORTON ROSE FULBRIGHT**

**LATHAM**  
LATHAM & WATKINS



## Bronze Sponsors

**Baker  
McKenzie.**

**Debevoise  
& Plimpton**

**GIBSON DUNN**

**+simmons  
simmons**

**SQUIRE**  
PATTON BOGGS

**HUNTON**  
ANDREWS KURTH

**BEALE&CO**

**extense**

**BCF supported by BEO**



# STAY CONNECTED

## SAVE THE DATE



27-28 September 2024

## GET IN TOUCH



[events@blackcounselforum.com](mailto:events@blackcounselforum.com)



[@BlackCounselForum](https://www.linkedin.com/company/BlackCounselForum)



[@blackcounselforum](https://www.instagram.com/blackcounselforum)



[@blackcounselBCF](https://twitter.com/blackcounselBCF)