



RACIAL & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEAM



Joseph L. Richardson

PARTNER

Partner Joseph L. Richardson leads McCune Wright Arevalo's Racial & Economic Justice practice. This practice group is designed to be a voice for the community that provide both litigation representation and education opportunities for those in need.

Mr. Richardson also partners with leaders (business, community, political, religious and others), and community institutions including schools and nonprofits to shed light on and combat racial and economic inequality. He specializes in finding commonality between unique groups, making him a highly effective public speaker and educator on often divisive topics. He is passionate about advocating for churches and non-profit entities and connecting communities to the resources they need.

Mr. Richardson's background informs his work. Born and raised in South-Central Los Angeles, he attended University of Redlands, where he was student body president, hosted comedy shows and won Senior of the Year. He interned in Congress in Washington D.C. and wrote commentary on legal and political issues. At Northwestern Law School, Mr. Richardson was an SBA student government leader, hosted on campus cabarets, and travelled with the Kellogg School of Management to Ghana as part of their Global Initiatives in Management program.

In 2019, Mr. Richardson was appointed a member of the Redlands Planning Commission. Since 2015, he has been an adjunct law professor at LaVerne College of Law, teaching California Civil Procedure and Trial Advocacy. Mr. Richardson is a frequent public speaker on legal and ethical responsibility, leadership, civil rights, and today's fronts in the search for justice. He is also a frequent media contributor, appearing on local and national television and writing on constitutional and justice issues. Personally, he has stayed involved in the community through the Family Services Association of Redlands, and the Garner Holt Foundation. He lives and practices in his college town of Redlands, California.



Elaine S. Kusel

PARTNER

Elaine S. Kusel is a partner of McCune Wright Arevalo, LLP, and leads the firm's Newark, New Jersey, office. As a nationally renowned class action attorney, she performs a significant role in the firm's Consumer Fraud Class Action division. In one notable case, *Abdullahi v. Pfizer*, Ms. Kusel represented Nigerian children enrolled in a clinical trial by Pfizer without their families' informed consent. In another, *Gutierrez v. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.*, her work helped secure a \$203 million-dollar class action verdict for unfair bank overdraft fees. Ms. Kusel helped to lead the effort to uncover the financial fraud of Volkswagen, leading to a \$40 million-dollar settlement on behalf of the citizens of the State of Arizona in the emissions fraud scandal.

Though she has demonstrated success in the courtroom, Ms. Kusel also shows a dedication to leadership and providing equal access to resources for those without the means to attain what they need most. As MWA's lead attorney in the New York City and Newark area, she can help connect underserved communities on the East Coast to local services and education regardless of income or background.

After college, Ms. Kusel spent eight years working in the U.S. House of Representatives, where she eventually served as Legislative Director and Counsel to a Member of Congress serving on the House Commerce Committee.

After graduating from law school, her practice had included fraud litigation, mass torts, and international human rights law.