

Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp's Samantha Grant Named One of The "10 Up-and-Coming African American Lawyers to Watch" by The Minority Corporate Council Association

Grant renowned for commitment to advancing diversity efforts of the legal profession

LOS ANGELES – February 06, 2006 – Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP, a Los Angeles-based law firm which has provided integrated legal and business solutions for nearly 100 years, announced today that Samantha Grant, a partner in the firm's Labor & Employment practice was selected as one of the "10 Top Up-and-Coming African American Lawyers to Watch" by the Minority Corporate Council Association (MCAA).

"We congratulate Samantha on being selected as one of the top 10 young African American lawyers to watch," said Thomas Lambert, managing partner of Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp. "Her selection by the Minority Corporate Council Association speaks volumes to her talent and ability and the esteem she hold with her peers."

Grant was one of 10 attorneys selected from a pool of 100 African-American lawyers nominated by prominent senior attorneys who were named "America's Top Black Lawyers" by *Black Enterprise* magazine in 2003. The results appeared in MCAA's *Diversity & the Bar* magazine whose staff reviewed the nominees' credentials and sought other information available from public records. As part of the process, researchers and fact checkers examined experience, significant cases and transactions, client and community service.

Her case work includes having secured a favorable employment law decision by the California Supreme Court in *Lyle v. Warner Brothers Television Production*, in which the Court found the production company and several writers were not liable for sexual harassment in the creation of the hit TV sitcom "Friends." At stake was freedom of speech within the work environment to address potentially offensive topics such as sex, race and religion in the logical course of doing one's job, whether writing for a TV sitcom, discussing stories in a newsroom, or academic discussion in a university classroom.

In her practice, Grant advises, arbitrates and litigates on behalf of employers in labor and employment matters, including harassment, discrimination, retaliation, wage and hour, unfair competition and unfair labor practice charges. She has secured a number of successful outcomes on behalf of her clients before the National Labor Relations Board and has recently been selected as a Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference Representative.

A frequent speaker at the American Bar Association (ABA) annual and midwinter meetings, Grant holds prominent leadership positions in the ABA, serves on the Boards of the Black Women Lawyers Association and John M. Langston Bar Association and is an active member of the firm's Hiring and Diversity Committees.

Grant was named as one of "Southern California Super Lawyers Rising Stars" by *Los Angeles Magazine*, 2005 and 2006; and as "One to Watch" in the labor and employment field by the *Los Angeles Daily Journal*, 2006.

About Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP

Founded in 1908, the law firm of Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP has offices in Los Angeles and Washington DC. The firm is heralded for its landmark cases in the entertainment industry and is known for its community activities and collaborative work environment which has drawn many returning alumni. For more information about Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp visit www.msk.com.