

ARMSTRONG TEASDALE CELEBRATES 2022 INCLUSION WEEK, RECOGNIZES ALUMNUS STEVEN COUSINS WITH GROUNDBREAKER AWARD

Armstrong Teasdale celebrated its annual Inclusion Week from Nov. 14-18 across its U.S. offices. Hosted by the firm's [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion \(DEI\) Department](#) and more than 35 lawyers and staff firmwide who serve on the Inclusion Week committee, the week involves a robust schedule of programming and activities designed to immerse lawyers and staff in the importance of inclusion as a shared value firmwide.

The week's activities included a keynote address from Dr. Steve Robbins, an inspirational speaker with an academic background in communication science, social psychology and cognitive neuroscience; an engaging discussion with Webster University Linguistics Expert Dr. DJ Kaiser; and an all-affinities mixer, which presented opportunities for lawyers and staff from diverse backgrounds to connect 1:1.

One of the marquis events of Inclusion Week is the opportunity to recognize lawyers, staff and alumni who emulate and model inclusion in their daily work, and demonstrate excellent client service and team engagement. Annual Inclusion Award winners are selected in four categories – Trailblazer, Inclusive Leader, Client Champion and Ally – after being peer-nominated.

The 2022 award program also introduced a new recognition – the Groundbreaker Award – presented to Armstrong Teasdale alumnus [Steve Cousins](#), who retired from the firm in 2018 after a storied 38-year career. Cousins now provides consulting services as President and CEO of Cousins Allied Strategic Advisors, LLC.

Cousins dedicated his entire career to the firm, contributing tremendously to its history and success, as well as to the broader St. Louis community through his extensive civic and charitable service. Cousins was the first African-American lawyer at Armstrong Teasdale in 1980; the first associate to lead a department at Armstrong Teasdale when he created the Financial Restructuring, Reorganization and Bankruptcy practice area in 1984; the first African-American to serve on the firm's Executive Committee, a position he



held for 15 years; and among the first African-Americans in Missouri to be named to The Best Lawyers in America® for his work in bankruptcy and creditor-debtor rights law, where he's been ranked consecutively for over 20 years. He received a number of additional national awards including recognition from Black Enterprise Magazine as one of the top five African-American corporate bankruptcy lawyers in the country, and was considered a significant rainmaker and mentor while at the firm.

Cousins also recently earned the 2022 National Service to Youth Award from the Boys and Girls Club of Greater St. Louis for more than 20 years of dedication to the St. Louis Internship Program (SLIP). Cousins and Armstrong Teasdale were also recognized with the Capture the Vision Award for their longstanding contributions to SLIP.

"I thank Armstrong Teasdale for this recognition and its partners and leaders for their trust in me throughout my time at the firm," said Cousins. "The tribute really goes to Armstrong Teasdale. They had the foresight to hire a young African-American lawyer and provide me, as an associate, with many advancement opportunities. I'm honored to be an alumnus of the firm."

Additional Inclusion Week honorees include:

Trailblazer

- Shuba Anand, Paralegal
- Allison Snell, Senior Marketing Coordinator

Inclusive Leader

- Aubyn Krulish, Partner and Denver Office Managing Attorney
- James Major, Of Counsel
- John Willard, Partner

Client Champion

- Richard Senzer, Recruiter – East Region

Ally

- Monica Kriegel, Senior Marketing Manager - Lead
- Jaimie Mansfield, Partner
- Matthew Otey, Legal Assistant
- Jana Shuster, Legal Assistant
- Allison Snell, Senior Marketing Coordinator
- Carly Stark, Litigation Specialist

The firm's international offices in London and Dublin will celebrate Inclusion Week Nov. 28-Dec. 2, 2022.



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