

LATANYA LANGLEY
Trinity College Class of 1997
Doctor of Laws

Presented by Professor of Music Gail H. Woldu

“I was impressed with the freedom a student has here. There are so many choices Trinity students can make over their four years.” You spoke those words a little more than 20 years ago, when, as a senior ’neath the elms, you recalled your decision to enroll here. You relished that freedom and those choices, enjoying the flexibility offered by Trinity’s liberal arts curriculum and participating in many activities, including the Trinity College Black Women’s Organization, Umoja House, Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, the Pan-African Alliance, the Gospel Choir, and the softball team. You also were honored by membership in Pi Gamma Mu, the International Honor Society in Social Sciences. Off campus, you worked as a legal assistant at the law firm of Cummings & Lockwood. On your way to earning a B.A. in political science, you spent a semester at the London School of Economics, where you studied law and interned with a criminal defense barrister.

On your graduation day from Trinity, you were granted a mayoral proclamation from the City of Hartford, declaring May 18 as LaTanya Langley Day in recognition of your academic achievements and community activism. You then moved on to the University of Connecticut School of Law and earned a J.D. You are a member of the Connecticut and New York Bars and the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut. Your work experience includes time as a corporate associate at Paul Hastings; Weil, Gotshal & Manges; and Shipman & Goodwin.

In 2008, you joined Diageo, a global leader in beverage alcohol. You held several positions there, including senior counsel of Diageo North America and general counsel and corporate secretary of Guinness Ghana Breweries, based in Accra, Ghana, and Guinness USA.

Two years ago, you moved to BIC, one of the most well-known international brands in writing instruments, lighters, and shavers, as vice president and general counsel. There you have global responsibility for managing all legal matters for the company’s largest unit, Stationery; BIC international markets, including Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia-Pacific; and anti-corruption compliance.

You are active in your hometown community of Norwalk, serving as a member of the Mayor’s Business Advisory Council and as a commissioner for the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency. You have served on several professional and civic boards, including Norwalk Hospital, Connecticut Legal Services, the Human Services Council, the Norwalk Historical Commission, Person-to-Person, and the Carver Foundation of Norwalk. You also have volunteered for the Family and Children’s Agency and Imani Praise Dancers. To your alma mater, you have unselfishly given your time since 2015 as a Board of Fellows member.

Your honors include the 2016 First Chair Award for Top General Counsel, the National Bar Association’s 2016 Excellence in Leadership Award and its Nation’s Best Advocates: 40 Lawyers Under 40 Award, *The Network Journal’s* 40 Under 40 Achievement Award, and the Woman of the Year Classic Award from the State of Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission. *The Connecticut Law Tribune* named you a High Achiever, and the Fairfield County Business Journal recognized you as one of Fairfield County’s 40 Under 40.

In recognition of your extraordinary accomplishments in your professional endeavors in the field of law, your commitment to your Connecticut hometown, and your steadfast loyalty to Trinity College, I have the honor of presenting you, LaTanya Langley, for the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.