

## NEWS & INSIGHTS

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### **LIGHTFOOT ANNOUNCES EXPANDED ROLE FOR COO EDGAR HARPER AS NEW CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER**

October 24, 2023

Lightfoot, Franklin & White LLC proudly announces the integration of designated diversity and operational leadership by expanding the role of its current Chief Operations Officer (COO), Edgar Harper. Recognizing that true commitment to diversity means weaving it into every layer of operations, Harper will serve dual capacities as the firm's COO and its inaugural Chief Diversity Officer (CDO).

In this vital role, Harper will oversee the cultivation and reinforcement of Lightfoot's commitment to a diverse and inclusive work environment. His responsibilities will include close collaboration with Human Resources and various committees within the firm, including Recruiting, Associates, D&I, Executive Committee, and Marketing to ensure the firm's active support of diversity issues and initiatives. This unified approach aims to actively support and amplify strategies and initiatives that emphasize diversity and inclusion throughout the recruitment, retention, training, and mentorship of talent, both attorneys and staff, from a wide array of backgrounds and life experiences.

"As the importance of diversity and inclusion continues to grow within the legal sector, Lightfoot's decision to entrust this responsibility to a dedicated professional underscores our unwavering commitment to these values," said Managing Partner Melody Eagan. "With Edgar's deep understanding of the legal landscape, coupled with his specialized training in diversity, equity, and inclusion from Cornell University, we are confident in his ability to steer Lightfoot fulfill and our vision where diversity and inclusion are seamlessly integrated into the fabric of the firm."

Harper's commitment to diversity and inclusion is not only evident in his passion but also in his qualifications. Recently, he completed an extensive Diversity and Inclusion Certification course from the esteemed Cornell University. His accomplishments as COO, where he directs administrative and operational functions such as personnel, facilities management, and the implementation of administrative policies and procedures, makes him ideally suited for this position.

Lightfoot is excited about this new chapter and believes that with Harper's expertise and dedication, the firm is poised for greater inclusivity and diversity successes.