



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For additional information, please contact:

Lori Anne Oliwa, lorianne@weareifel.org
(973) 353-0611x125

**THE INSTITUTE FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP WELCOMES
LYNN J. LOACKER OF DAVIS WRIGHT TREMAINE TO THE
WOMEN OF COLOR CONNECTING LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**

Women of Color Connecting Leverages the Power of Relationship Capital to Help More Women of Color Entrepreneurs Grow, Scale and Build Wealth through Entrepreneurship

Newark, NJ, August 9, 2021 — The Institute For Entrepreneurial Leadership (IFEL) announced today that Lynn Locker, a partner with the law firm Davis Wright Tremaine, New York, has joined the Women Of Color Connecting (WOCCON) Leadership Council. [Women of Color Connecting](#) is an IFEL initiative focused on leveraging the power of relationship capital to help more women of color entrepreneurs grow, scale, and create wealth through entrepreneurship. The role of the WOCCON Leadership Council is to amplify the voice of women of color entrepreneurs and the work that WOCCON is doing to support them. Members of the WOCCON Leadership Council are active allies and champions who use their resources and relationships toward the visionary goal of creating \$1 billion in new wealth through the success of women of color entrepreneurs.

“Lynn Locker walks the walk as an ally and champion for women of color entrepreneurs and investors. She is constantly opening doors to create opportunities for women, especially those that have been historically excluded from the entrepreneurial ecosystem,” says IFEL CEO Jill Johnson. “We are honored to call Lynn a friend of the organization and we look forward to continued collaboration with Project W to help more women of color entrepreneurs move forward faster through their journeys.”

The Partner-In-Charge at the New York offices of Davis Wright Tremaine and Chair of the firm’s Diversity & Inclusion Committee, Locker is most passionate about helping women entrepreneurs to build successful and impactful companies and networks of influence. As the founder of [Project W](#), she is a trailblazer and powerful presence affirming Davis Wright Tremaine’s commitment to women entrepreneurs. Locker was instrumental in building a network of over 2,000 founders, investors and executives. The network is supported by allies in the investment community and among the many like-minded organizations that

Project W partners with. A staunch advocate for the advancement of women throughout her career, she is very focused on closing the gender gap in the corporate world, increasing funding for women-led businesses, and electing more women to corporate Boards of Directors. Locker is also the founder of [Women Entrepreneurs Bootcamp](#) (WEB), an annual forum which selects an elite group of female entrepreneurs from around the country for an immersive day-long interactive learning experience with investors, business executives and industry experts. The goal is to help founders convert great ideas into economic results.

Locker stated, “Women of color are starting new businesses at a faster rate than any other demographic, with the potential to inject billions of dollars into the economy. But they face more barriers than most entrepreneurs. Through its unique Success Circles model and other highly curated programming, [Women of Color Connecting](#) is empowering women of color entrepreneurs to break down those barriers and achieve success. I am thrilled to be part of this critical mission.”

Locker graduated from Stanford University and obtained her Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law. She is admitted to practice in the states of New York and Washington.

ABOUT DAVIS WRIGHT TREMAINE LLP

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP is an AmLaw 100 law firm with eight offices around the United States. The firm is regularly recognized as an industry leader in diversity, equity, and inclusion. For more information, visit diversity.dwt.com.

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP

Founded in 2002, the [Institute for Entrepreneurial Leadership](#) (IFEL) is an independent, not-for-profit organization that supports economic development through entrepreneurship. Our vision is to eliminate barriers to entrepreneurial and small business success for main street businesses, women, and people of color, enabling them to generate wealth for themselves and the communities in which they live. Helping entrepreneurs gain access to the knowledge, networks and capital needed for business success are benchmarks of IFEL programming, expertly created to help entrepreneurs strengthen the core of their businesses, to connect them to networks of power and influence and to break down barriers that limit access to capital. Our three programmatic areas of concentration are [Women of Color Connecting](#), which focuses attention on utilizing relationship capital to build the capacity of women of color entrepreneurs to grow, scale and exit. Our vision is to create \$1B in new wealth over the next ten years through the success of women of color entrepreneurs; [Small Business Need Us](#), a program formed to help COVID-19 impacted small businesses survive. Small Businesses Need Us employs expert-level volunteers to help solve the most pressing issues entrepreneurs are facing; and [The Making of Black Angels](#), a movement that promotes diversity and inclusion efforts designed to increase the number of black people involved in angel investing. We believe that increasing the number of black angel investors will lead to more black entrepreneurs receiving angel capital, often the first step to getting on the trajectory to venture capital. For more information, visit us at <https://www.weareifel.org>

###