

O'Riordan Bethel provides counsel and advice in the following practice areas:

- Government Contracts
- Securities Enforcement
- Financial Regulation
- Business Litigation
- Government Affairs
- White Collar Criminal Defense
- Construction
- Certification (including 8(a) and DBE)

**Firm Certifications/Qualifications**

8(a) • SDB

WOSB • EDWOSB

Small Business

DC / WMATA DOT DBE

MDOT DBE

DC CBE

WBENC/WPEO W/MBE

African-American and Woman-Owned

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We are pleased to announce that O'Riordan Bethel has been named the **Administrative Law Firm of the Year** in Washington, D.C., and the **Government Contracts Law Firm of the Year** in Washington D.C., both by U.K.-based **Corporate INTL** magazine. This is the second time that O'Riordan Bethel has received both of these honors. We were also selected in 2010.



Corporate INTL's annual awards are a mark of excellence for the world's leading advisors and financiers worldwide. The awards recognize law firms and other service providers that, over the past 12 months, have shown excellence, not only in **technical expertise**, but also in **client service**.

"We have always prided ourselves on our high level of client service and on our partnering with our clients to achieve the best possible business results," said Managing Partner Carol L. O'Riordan. "We are so gratified to have received this recognition from this publication."

Over 11,500 nominations for Corporate INTL's fourth global awards were received from law firms, in-house counsel teams, business directors and private individuals. The publication researched advisers from more than 100 countries specializing in more than 60 practice areas and sectors.

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## The Washington Post

**Amber Peebles**, president of **Athena Construction Group**, a Dumfries, Va.-based company that is believed to be the **nation's only service-disabled veteran, woman-owned, HUB Zone construction company**, recently had the opportunity to write about her firm, its attitude toward business success, and its growth in a *Washington Post* small business blog.

Athena Construction is a longstanding client of the Firm.

"I think that the future is loaded with opportunities for the women who own businesses," Peebles wrote. "As we continue to gain parity and a more level playing field, we can stop spending our collective mental and emotional energy on issues of equality and an 'us vs. them' mentality, thus freeing us to utilize our resources and acumen to address and resolve, both in a goods and services and in a leadership capacity, the tremendous issues facing our country."

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Peebles' approach to business is working well. The company just won the **2012 American Express Victory in Procurement Small Business Government Contractor of the Year Award**.

"Through persistence, and by getting **certified as a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business, Woman-Owned Business, and Historically Underutilized Business Zone construction company**, Athena Construction Group was able to obtain work by sub-contracting, prime contracting and teaming," the award announcement said. "The company has been able to grow through the recession and hire new employees."

O'Riordan Bethel is proud to have contributed to Athena Construction's success and congratulates the company's principals, Amber Peebles and Melissa Schneider. The full blog article is [here](#).

We can stop... an 'us vs. them' mentality.

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On March 28, 2012, Firm Partner Pamela J. Bethel spoke at the memorial service for retired **U.S. Chief District Judge Norma Holloway Johnson**, who died on September 18, 2011. Judge Johnson became the first woman chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia in 1997. She retired in 2003.

Judge Johnson "understood the importance of her role and she filled it."

"During her tenure on the bench, Judge Johnson understood that her appointment represented a sea of change – a black woman put in a highly regarded position and the ultimate public position. She understood that she was, like it or not, a role model and a lightning rod and anything else you can say about someone who every day takes the bench to hear and adjudicate complex issues argued by some of the top lawyers in the country," Ms. Bethel said.

Judge Johnson "understood the importance of her role and she filled it. She did not try to be warm and cuddly. She did not assume an arrogant attitude. She was above all serious," Ms. Bethel added.

"By serious, I do not mean, however, that she lacked a sense of humor or humanity, Ms. Bethel said. "There was humor. She could also be humble. She read what she was given and she listened carefully. She opened doors that she later tried to push others through. She provided counsel, advice and encouragement. She understood

how important it was to bring people along.”

Ms. Bethel described some cases that she had pursued before Judge Johnson – such as the time that she represented the D.C. bookstore Kramerbooks & afterwords and secured a ruling from Judge Johnson that the Independent Counsel could not, as a matter of right, obtain the identity of books purchased by Monica Lewinsky at that bookstore.

Ms. Bethel announced at the memorial service that in order to honor Judge Johnson’s life’s work, honor of her life’s work, the Washington Bar Association and the Washington Bar Association Foundation will institute the **Norma Holloway Johnson Fellow Program**.

The Norma Holloway Johnson Fellow will be selected annually by members of the Association and Foundation based upon essays submitted by candidates from the six Washington, D.C., law schools – American, Catholic, George Washington, Georgetown, Howard , and the University of the District of Columbia.

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On July 26 and 27, 2012, Managing Partner Carol L. O’Riordan attended the **Minority Business Roundtable’s 2012 Annual Meeting and CEO Business Summit** at the Willard Hotel in Washington, D.C.



The MBRT is the only national organization representing the CEO's of the nation’s small, minority-owned, and women-owned businesses to analyze public policies that affect their businesses.

The summit featured a morning panel discussion of leading White House advisers and chief acquisitions officers from a number of large federal agencies, including the Department of Health and Human Services, the General Services Administration, and the Department of Energy, who discussed contracting strategies for small, minority-owned, and women-owned businesses. In the afternoon session, investors and government officials provided advice for that businesses seeking access to capital markets.

The program also included a **White House briefing** on President Obama’s strategies for empowering small businesses.

Ms. O’Riordan said, “It was encouraging to see so many C-level executives present. Their participation and the depth of information available from government participants created worthwhile synergies.”

**Congratulations to [Grid2Grid](#) and its managing partner, Asoka Ranaweera.**

On 22, the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development announced the opening of a new a foreign trade office in Nigeria. Grid2Grid will operate the office for the DBED. Although DBED runs a dozen other foreign trade offices around the globe, the Nigeria office is **Maryland's first in Africa**. It is a regional office and covers Nigeria, Ghana, Niger, Djibouti, Tanzania, Mozambique, Liberia, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Mali.



August

Grid2Grid is a premier provider of investment and development solutions in emerging markets and has deep connections throughout Africa and Asia. It is a long-time [strategic ally](#) of O'Riordan Bethel, and both Pamela Bethel and Carol O'Riordan serve as members of Grid2Grid's Advisory Board. "We couldn't be more pleased for Grid2Grid and Asoka," commented Bethel. "Through our relationship with Grid2Grid, we offer our clients top-shelf representation and partnering options in Africa, Brazil, China, Central Asia, Russia, and Turkey."

View DBED's press announcement [here](#).

The firm's Executive Partner Pamela J. Bethel was honored by the **Washington Bar Association** in June. On June 8, she received **The Mabel Haden Trailblazer Award** for her "pioneering efforts and... spirit necessary to expand legal opportunities for women of color" at the Mabel Haden Red Dress Awards Tea.

Less than three weeks later Ms. Bethel was recognized for her "**Outstanding Service to The Washington Bar Association**" at its annual Hall of Fame induction Ceremony on June 25. She also introduced Patricia M. Rosier at her induction into the WBA's Hall of Fame.

The Washington Bar Association, founded in 1925, is one of the first African American Bar associations in the nation. The WBA actively seeks to fulfill its mission of "the advancement of jurisprudence and group enhancement in a racially exclusive society and judicial system" by providing legal services for the needy and professional and financial support to students, among other efforts.

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The firm is pleased to announce that **Anthony J. Marchese** has become its newest associate. Mr. Marchese started as an associate in May 2012 and has been working on a variety of litigation and government contracts matters for the firm.

Mr. Marchese is a 2009 *magna cum laude* graduate of Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. There, he was a member of the Law Review, was a finalist in the Moot Court best brief competition, and won the Law Excellence Award for the highest grade in patent law, moot court, common law contracts for civil law students, and civil law property.

Mr. Marchese is a 2006 graduate of Georgetown University, where he majored in linguistics and Russian.

He has also been a summer associate and an associate at McGlinchey Stafford, a large New Orleans-based law firm. While in law school, he was a judicial intern for a judge of the Louisiana Supreme Court.

In his spare time, Mr. Marchese is a singer and bass section leader at the Church of the Little Flower in Bethesda, Md.

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On August 2, 2012 Executive Partner Pamela Bethel was invited by Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) to attend a working group meeting for the Subcommittee on Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises of the **House Committee on Financial Services**. At the meeting she addressed members of the **Congressional Black Caucus** and the directors of various government **Offices of Minority and Women Inclusion (OMWI)** on the utilization of minority- and women-owned firms in federal contracting under Section 342 of the Dodd-Frank Act.

Ms. Bethel presented a summary of the testimony she had originally delivered at a hearing of the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity and Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations in May 2010.

Ms. Bethel spoke about the Treasury Department's reliance on "white shoe firms" when awarding government contracts for legal services under TARP and decried the fact that "diverse firms were not even provided an opportunity to compete for such

contracts.” As a contrast, she offered her own successful experience working with the Resolution Trust Corporation during the Savings and Loan in the late 1980s and 1990s.

“RTC required contractors, including law firms, to partner with diverse firms as a way of achieving inclusion. The result was that the work was performed successfully and in the most cost efficient manner,” she said.



Also represented at the meeting were the National Council of La Raza, National Association of Securities Professionals, and National Association of Real Estate Brokers, among others. Ms. Bethel spoke on behalf of the **National Association of Minority and Women Owned Law Firms (NAMWOLF)**, highlighting the government’s failure to “to insure that the same inclusionary goals and principles [applied to federal procurements] be incorporated into the government’s procurement of legal or other professional services.”

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