

SPECIAL SKINCARE REPORT P.117

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ONE WOMAN.
ONE BRILLIANT IDEA



SHANIQUA DAVIS HELPING WORKFORCES DIVERSIFY

HER INSPIRATION: After graduating from college with four internships, Shaniqua Davis was frustrated when she got passed over for jobs. "I had two barriers—being black and a woman," says Davis, 27. She even pursued jobs using a fake name. "I applied to the jobs as Shaniqua and Shawn, and I swear only Shaniqua got a rejection letter."

HER BIG IDEA: Despite her experience, Davis knew there were employers who valued diversity but didn't know where to start. "Companies have no clue how to find diverse candidates," she says. "They search for dark faces or minority-sounding names—it shouldn't be like that." In June 2016, she launched the Chicago-based Noirefy (a combination of noire, which means "black" in French, and amplify) to connect people of color with employers. **RESULTS:** Noirefy has more than 2,700 job seekers and works directly with seven companies on recruitment. She's hoping to bring on 50 companies and 50,000 candidates by year's end. To help, Noirefy launched "Not Your Average Conference or Fair," a job tour with a lounge, a DJ, and fireside chats with executives, kicking off in Chicago in February and coming to New York, D.C., and Atlanta later this year.

—Tatiana Walk-Morris

THE JUSTICE LEAGUE

Meet the women putting the president's team under a microscope

When special counsel Robert Mueller set out to probe possible ties between Donald Trump's campaign and Russian meddling in the 2016 election, he needed a trustworthy team, one with expertise on issues pertinent to the secretive investigation. That meant bringing on women, four of them, out of 17 total staff attorneys. The four women, who declined interviews, were big shots long before they joined the Russia investigation. "It's like Danny Ocean assembling a team but deciding not to limit himself to men," one former federal prosecutor told *Marie Claire*. And the

stakes are high: The investigation could lead to a host of conspiracy-related charges if Trump's team is found to have worked with Russia to sway the election—or an obstruction-of-justice case against the president. Or it may net associates for unrelated crimes and leave the Russia question unresolved. At press time, four people once connected to Trump's campaign or administration have faced charges. Trump, meanwhile, has denounced the inquiry as a "witch hunt." So, who are the women who could help change the course of his presidency? —Dana Liebelson



Zainab Ahmad

As of May 2017, Ahmad had prosecuted 13 terrorist suspects for the U.S. without a single loss, *The New Yorker* reported. One case involved a plot to blow up fuel tanks and a pipeline under New York's JFK Airport. "There is not a better or more committed national security prosecutor in the Justice Department," says David Bitkower, a former high-ranking official there. "She's experienced with everything from interviewing terrorists to negotiating with high-level foreign counterparts." Ahmad is one of three attorneys named on the court filing outlining the charges for ex-Trump national security adviser Michael Flynn, who pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about conversations with the Russian ambassador.

Jeannie Rhee

Rhee has expertise in white-collar criminal cases, and successfully prosecuted officers of the Washington [D.C.] Teachers' Union, who were convicted of embezzling millions. She's a Justice Department pro, who previously advised the Obama administration. That experience carries weight: She's listed on the statement of offense against George Papadopoulos, an ex-Trump adviser who pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI. Rhee told *Diversity Journal* in 2014 that "as an Asian-American woman, I am often not expected to be a fierce litigator." But she works to convey "how my ethnicity, gender, stature ... do not prevent me from being a formidable advocate."



Elizabeth Prelogar

When Prelogar was 20, she was crowned Miss Idaho USA and went on to compete in the national pageant then owned by Donald Trump. Now, Prelogar joins the team from the Office of the Solicitor General, where she's argued multiple cases at the Supreme Court, including one involving a law to protect Native American women from domestic abusers. "I have never seen Elizabeth shy away from any challenge," said Julie Clements Smith, a friend and college classmate, who noted she was always "very organized and driven." Prelogar studied Russian at Emory University, won a Fulbright scholarship to go to St. Petersburg, is a Harvard Law grad, and clerked for Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Elena Kagan.

Kyle Freeny

Freeny is a "sophisticated investigator" who has worked "complex, front-page, transnational cases" in the money-laundering section of the Justice Department, Bitkower says. In one case, the U.S. sought to recover more than \$1 billion in assets connected to an alleged international conspiracy. It was a major undertaking—a former Justice Department official said the case sent the message that the U.S. will not "become a playground for the corrupt"—and such experience could be relevant, given ex-Trump campaign chair Paul Manafort was charged with using hidden overseas wealth to "enjoy a lavish lifestyle," including multiple Range Rovers. (He has pleaded not guilty.)

