



# DIVERSITY IN THE LAW

## theme introduction

.....

BY GERARD V. MANTESE AND VANI G. VERKHOVSKY

*Farmers, you seek fair prices and  
you are right—but you cannot stand  
alone. Your patch is not big enough.*

...

*Women, you seek comparable worth  
and pay equity, you are right—but  
your patch is not big enough.*

...

*Blacks and Hispanics, when we fight  
for civil rights, we are right—but our  
patch is not big enough.*

...

*Gays and lesbians, when you fight  
against discrimination and [for] a  
cure for AIDS, you are right—but  
your patch is not big enough.*

...

*But don't despair. Be as wise as my  
grandmamma. Pull the patches and  
the pieces together, bound by  
a common thread.*

...

*We, the people, can win!*

**T**he Rev. Jesse Jackson spoke these words at the July 19, 1998, Democratic National Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, celebrating a strong quilt of diversity. This theme issue does the same.

The United States of America is known as a melting pot of peoples. And that pot sometimes boils over with emotions, distrust, and frustrations. But more often, our diversity strengthens and energizes us.

The following articles take an in-depth look at the issues faced by racial and ethnic minorities and transgender and gender-expansive youth, and discuss how we as legal professionals can best represent our clients and advocate for greater equality and cultural competence.

We hope these articles inspire and challenge and celebrate our amazing, empowering, mesmerizing, unending, and overflowing diversity. ■



*Gerard V. Mantese is the CEO at Mantese Honigman, PC, with offices in Troy, Michigan; New York, New York; and St. Louis, Missouri. He practices in the area of business litigation, focusing on shareholder and member disputes, fiduciary duties, contracts, and partnership litigation, and he has published extensively on these issues. Mantese has been an adjunct professor at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law and Wayne State University School of Law.*



*Vani G. Verkhovsky is an attorney with Cardelli Lanfear, PC, in Royal Oak. In her current position, she focuses on insurance defense and commercial litigation. Verkhovsky graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with a BS in molecular environmental biology with an emphasis in human health. She received her JD from Michigan State University College of Law.*