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# Pioneering Ex-Clippers GC Launches New Legal Consultancy

By [Khadrice Rollins](#) | Jul 20, 2022, 4:43 PM EDT · [Listen to article](#)

Nikki Duckett is creating her own path.

When this month started, she was the chief general counsel and vice president for the [Los Angeles Clippers](#). Duckett, who took the job in 2015, was the first and only Black woman to hold that title in NBA history. But as of July 11, she's been working on a new legal consulting business that she says has the potential to be even more groundbreaking.

With Nikki Duckett Collective LLC, Duckett is looking to help change the way athletes approach business and marketing deals through a unique style of "collaborative counsel." That group would include herself, the clients, whatever representation the clients already have and a network of other professionals that Duckett will consult with on a case-by-case basis.

"Because I not only have so many years of experience in corporate transactions, but also on the sports side, on the team side and on the athletes' side, I'm able to offer a truly personal general counsel experience so that each athlete I represent has his or her own personal general counsel. I'm able to do that because of the rare combination of experience that I have," Duckett told Law360. "And I also feel that it's not just the experience, but it's also the innovation and the creativity and the intuition that Nikki Duckett Collective brings to the table that really sets us apart."

Duckett said the project grew out of her experience with the Clippers.

"I feel that a lot of times, these athletes, they have lawyers at law firms that don't have the experience with the sports side of things, with the team side of things," Duckett said. "And having spent so much time with athletes over the years, I really understand a lot more about where they're coming from and what's important for them and also what's important for their agent."

Still early on in the process, Duckett is continuing to put together her client roster and round up



Nicole Duckett

the rest of the professionals — leaning on people she's worked with before — who will make up the collective.

Duckett said the goal is to help athletes get more lucrative deals with better equity opportunities and global partnership possibilities, and to make these types of deals available for other athletes. But she also wants to help them give back to their communities.

"By getting these more conscious athletes that genuinely want to do good things with their power and their money and their influence, a platform and the support that they need to do that is really the impetus and inspiration for the Nikki Duckett Collective," Duckett said.

Duckett added that the athletes aren't the only ones with the potential to inspire others through their work. She understands how her career path so far has put her in a position to motivate others.

After more than eight years at Thelen LLP, another two years with [Mayer Brown LLP](#) and five years as a managing partner at [Milberg LLP](#), before seven years with the Clippers, Duckett is now in position to call all her own shots.

"It's not just inspiring other women and other people of color, that's obviously incredibly important to me," Duckett said. "But it's inspiring anyone that isn't seeing their goal job as attainable. I hope they can look at me and say, 'Well she did it. I mean, yes, she's very impressive, but she did do it, so I can do it.'"

--Editing by Steven Edelstone.

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