

CHICAGO LAWYER  
Chicago Daily Law Bulletin.

*Salute!*

**WOMEN IN LAW  
AWARDS CELEBRATION**

MEET OUR INAUGURAL CLASS OF  
50 EXCEPTIONAL WOMEN LAWYERS

A "FIRESIDE CHAT" WITH  
ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE  
ANNE BURKE

# Salute!

## A WOMEN IN LAW CELEBRATION

### Congratulations to our Inaugural Women in Law Honorees

Inside this special edition of *Chicago Lawyer* are profiles of 50 exceptional women leaders in the law who have been named as the *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin & Chicago Lawyer's* inaugural Salute! Women in Law Award honorees.

Each of them have this in common: they are making an incredible impact on our profession, have achieved success while mentoring and promoting other women and have been shining examples of leadership.

Earlier this year we put the call out for nominations of women lawyers who are leading the way. We received more than 500 nominations and selecting 50 honorees was not an easy job. There are so many incredible women in the Chicago legal profession. The honorees were screened by our Women's Advisory Panel and then chosen by our CDLB & CL selection committee.

We would like to give a special thank you to our Women's Advisory Board for their help with the process: Carolyn A. Blessing of Locke Lord, Sandra Frantzen of McAndrews, Hon. Cecilia Horan, Patricia Brown Holmes of Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila LLP, Kathleen McDonough of Wilson Elser, Marcia Owens of Honigman Margo Wolf O'Donnell of Benesch, Dean Jennifer Perea Rosato of DePaul College of Law and Jill Webb of the Law Offices of Jill Webb. Additionally, some of our board members were also nominated for this award and were so deserving, but were ineligible because they serve on our board. Congratulations to Patricia Holmes, Judge Horan, Marcia Owens, Dean Rosato, and Margo Wolf O'Donnell.

As you know, our plan was to host a reception and awards ceremony to celebrate all of our honorees in April but because of the pandemic, we shifted the celebration to a virtual awards announcement in May to hopefully be followed by a celebration later in the year. As the weeks passed we had hoped things would be back to normal for our third annual Women in Law Conference in December and we would be able to host the awards over lunch. Since that wasn't going to be possible, we decided to recognize these women in this special commemorative edition. Hopefully next year, we'll all be able to raise a glass together and celebrate in person.

Congratulations to this year's honorees! Thanks for all you are doing and your efforts to advance other women in our profession.



Ginger Lamb  
Publisher  
Women in Law – Salute!



Adam Hrejsa  
Director  
Women in Law – Salute!



### OUR TEAM

#### Ginger Lamb

Vice President & Publisher  
glamb@lawbulletinmedia.com

#### Adam Hrejsa

Director, Women in Law – Salute!  
ahrejsa@lawbulletinmedia.com

#### Maria Marquez

Design Director  
mmarquez@lawbulletinmedia.com

#### Spencer Post

Marketing & Events, Women in Law – Salute!  
spost@lawbulletinmedia.com

#### Gene Davis

Production Designer  
gdavis@lawbulletinmedia.com

#### John Sadowski

Production Designer  
jsadowski@lawbulletinmedia.com

#### Adam Pantone

Classified Advertising Representative  
apantone@lawbulletinmedia.com

### OTHER LEGAL PUBLICATIONS

Chicago Daily Law Bulletin  
Chicago Lawyer Magazine  
40 Under Forty  
Lawyers Handbook  
Jury Verdict Reporter

### OTHER LEGAL EVENTS

Morning Lineup Live  
40 Under Forty  
JVR Trial Excellence Awards  
Law Bulletin Seminars



# ROBERT A. CLIFFORD & CLIFFORD LAW OFFICES

## CONGRATULATE

### SHANNON M. MCNULTY & SARAH F. KING

ON THEIR BEING SALUTED BY THE  
LAW BULLETIN PUBLISHING COMPANY  
AMONG THE TOP 50 WOMEN HONOREES

THEY EMBODY ALL THAT IS GOOD AND RIGHT ABOUT THE  
LEGAL PROFESSION. THEY MAKE ALL OF US PROUD.



SHANNON M. MCNULTY  
PARTNER



SARAH F. KING  
PARTNER



CLIFFORD LAW OFFICES®

PERSONAL INJURY  
WRONGFUL DEATH  
PRODUCT LIABILITY  
TRANSPORTATION  
PREMISES LIABILITY LAW  
MEDICAL MALPRACTICE  
SEXUAL ABUSE

AVIATION  
CONSUMER & HEALTH CARE FRAUD  
MASS TORT/CLASS ACTIONS  
COMMERCIAL LITIGATION  
WHISTLEBLOWER LITIGATION  
SEXUAL HARASSMENT/  
EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION

120 North LaSalle Street, 31st Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60602  
Telephone (312) 899-9090 Fax (312) 251-1160 [www.cliffordlaw.com](http://www.cliffordlaw.com)



# HATS OFF TO THE 2020 WOMEN IN LAW HONOREES

---



By Kate Conway

Congratulations to each of the impressive and deserving Inaugural Women in Law Honorees. And special congratulations to the past Presidents of the WBAI, Deane Brown and Corinne Heggie, as well as current WBAI Board Member, Sarah King.

Thank you to the *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin* & *Chicago Lawyer* for creating this important honor and doing their part to recognize and give credit to the many outstanding women leaders we have in our legal community.

The women comprising the list of 2020 Honorees span many practice areas and include litigators, authors, jurists, community leaders, advocates and activists. While they hail from diverse backgrounds and experiences, they have at least one thing in common: their career paths were made easier by the trailblazers who came before them, and the women who follow them will benefit from their hard work and great example.

Today, women are reaching new heights in the practice of law, in government, and in business. Yet, severe underrepresentation remains. One important and necessary step toward equality in the legal arena is to recognize and celebrate the invaluable contributions of our women lawyers. Congratulations again to these 50 worthy Honorees and thank you for all that you do to pave the way for future women lawyers.

*Kate Conway is the President of the Women's Bar Association of Illinois and a partner at Power Rogers, LLP.*





# Portrait of a Leader

*Women's Advisory  
Committee member  
**Patricia Brown Holmes**  
congratulates this year's  
"Women in Law" honorees.*

As Managing Partner of Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila LLP (RSHC), **Patricia Brown Holmes** is well-known as a leader who is deeply invested in creating opportunities for and advancing the careers of women in the legal profession. Judge Holmes and the women of RSHC salute the 50 outstanding attorneys on this year's list and celebrate their accomplishments, their work as mentors, and their many contributions to the community.



#Proudtobe**RSHC**

**RILEY SAFER  
HOLMES & CANCILA LLP**  
*rshc*



## Uma Amuluru

CHIEF COMPLIANCE OFFICER  
THE BOEING COMPANY  
Northwestern University School of Law

*“Uma has had an exceptional career in the private and public sectors and is bound to do even greater things in the future.”*

Uma Amuluru is the Chief Compliance Officer for The Boeing Company, and a member of its Executive Council. As the leader of Global Compliance, Amuluru is responsible for Boeing's ethics and compliance program, which enables business success through an organizational culture committed to integrity, ethical conduct, workplace and product safety, and compliance with laws and company policies. As a member of the Executive Council, Amuluru is responsible for proactively addressing legal and compliance obligations, as well as providing company leaders with early visibility of any arising issues. Amuluru previously served as vice president and assistant general counsel for Boeing. She was responsible for legal advice and counsel to the chief engineer, the chief information officer and Manufacturing, Supply Chain & Operations leaders. Amuluru advised on matters related to intellectual property, cybersecurity, enterprise supply chain, and environment, health and safety.

Before joining Boeing, Amuluru held several senior positions in the federal government. As counselor to U.S. Attorney General Loretta

Lynch, Amuluru advised on high-profile criminal and law enforcement matters. She was also associate White House counsel to President Barack Obama, a role in which she provided legal and strategic advice to senior White House officials on issues involving compliance, oversight and risk management. Amuluru also served as assistant United States attorney for the District of Columbia.

Amuluru began her legal career as a commercial litigator for large companies facing complex legal disputes. As an associate at Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP and a partner at Kirkland & Ellis LLP, Amuluru represented companies in government enforcement actions, investigations, and state and federal litigation.

She also served as a law clerk at the Northern District of Illinois and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

Amuluru holds a Juris Doctor from Northwestern University School of Law and earned a bachelor's degree from Duke University.

She currently serves on the board of directors of Legal Aid Chicago. She lives in Evanston with her husband and is a mother of three boys.





# Aurora Abella-Austriaco

PARTNER AND SHAREHOLDER  
**VALENTINE AUSTRIACO  
& BUESCHEL, P.C.**  
*DePaul University*



“*Aurora is one of the most remarkable success stories.*”

**A**urora Abella-Austriaco is a partner and shareholder of Valentine Austriaco & Bueschel, P.C. (“VAB”), an all women owned law firm, where she concentrates her practice in the areas of real estate transactions and commercial litigation.

Prior to forming VAB, Aurora was the Principal and Owner of Austriaco & Associates, Ltd., an associate at Harold I. Levine Ltd. and was in-house counsel for Attorney’s Title Guaranty Fund, Inc. Aurora graduated from DePaul University with a B.S. in Finance (1987) and Juris Doctor (1990). Aurora made history by serving as the first Asian American President of the Chicago Bar Association. She was also elected as the first female President of the Illinois Real Estate Lawyers’ Association and was one of the founding board members of the Filipino American Bar Association of Chicago. She currently serves as Board Director for Attorneys’ Title Guaranty Fund, Inc. and serves as Chairman of the Board for one of its subsidiary companies.

Aurora currently serves as President of the National Conference of Bar Presidents. She was elected Illinois State Delegate to the ABA House of Delegates and serves on several ABA committees. She serves on the DePaul University Law School’s Dean Advisory Committee and serves as Chair of the Law School’s Diversity Council. In 2016, Aurora was appointed as a Commissioner for the Illinois Courts Commission and was elected School Board Member for Maine Township District 207.

Aurora just completed her term as President of the Lawyer’s Trust Fund of Illinois. Aurora is also active in the community. She serves on the board of National Association of Asian American Professionals and

was elected President of the Filipino Executive Network. She is on the board of the Asian American Coalition of Chicago and serves as Pro Bono Counsel for the Federation of Philippine American Chambers of Commerce. Aurora served as President of the Asian American Institute.

Aurora is a recipient of numerous awards and recognition. Most notable are the prestigious: “Top 20 Global Women of Excellence” by the 7th Congressional District Multi Ethnic Task Force in celebration of International Women’s Day 2020; Chicago United’s 2019 “50 Business Leaders of Color”; Secretary of State “Outstanding Community Service” 2019 awardee; “Ping Tom Memorial Award” given by the Asian American Coalition of Chicago; the “100 Global Filipina Women” by Filipina Women’s Network; Via Times Chicago “Hall of Fame Filipina Award”; the CBA’s “Vanguard Award” and the CBA “Alta Mae Hulett” Award; and 2018 FALA “Trailblazer Award.” Aurora was named one of “100 Women of Influence in Chicago” by *Today’s Chicago Woman*.

She was also recognized by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce as one of “Ten Most Outstanding Filipino American Businessmen.” Aurora is recognized as a “Leading Lawyer” in the area of Real Estate Law and was named in the “Top 100 Women Consumer Lawyers;” and “2011 Top 100 Under 50 Diverse Executive Leaders.” Aurora is recognized as a “Super Lawyer in Real Estate”. Aurora is also a radio talk show, “Sundays with Aurora” which airs every Sunday at 1240 AM WSBC. Aurora is fluent in Tagalog.

She is married to Dr. Jerome Austriaco and they have two daughters, Danielle and Isabelle.





## Margaret Battersby Black

PARTNER  
LEVIN & PERCONTI

“Margaret is a tremendous and well-rounded trial attorney.”

Levin & Perconti partner Margaret Battersby Black is a recognized leader in personal injury law, best known for her work on behalf of clients in lawsuits involving nursing home abuse and neglect and medical malpractice, having secured numerous multi-million dollar verdicts and settlements.

Last year, Margaret sat first chair for 20 of Illinois' top settlements, more than any other lawyer, male or female, reporting in the 2019 *Jury Verdict Reporter* rankings. With 24 total settlements above \$500,000, she set the year's high mark for the number of cases resolved for more than \$500,000.

Margaret also holds the record for the single largest-ever award in an Illinois nursing home matter: a \$4.1 million verdict in 2017's *Grauer v. Clare Oaks*, a case notable not only for the award but also the associated Illinois Appellate Court ruling affirming the right of nursing home residents to have their attorney's fees and legal costs fully covered from the defendant.

Margaret's advocacy for nursing home residents has gained international media coverage, most recently regarding her representation of a 91-year-old woman with dementia whose nursing home caretakers posted a video taunting her on social media. She is frequently interviewed as an expert on the rights of nursing home residents and their families.

Margaret has achieved noteworthy results for clients in other personal injury and malpractice matters, including a \$7 million medical malpractice wrongful death verdict, an \$18 million medical malpractice settlement for a brain-injured client, a \$14 million birth injury settlement

and a \$7.5 million Jones Act settlement (another Illinois record-setter).

Beyond her own outstanding record as a trial lawyer, Margaret is committed to the advancement of women in the legal profession. When Margaret joined Levin & Perconti, she was one of three women lawyers there. The firm now includes 13 women lawyers, four of whom are partners, a testament to Margaret's active mentorship.

Margaret also mentors younger lawyers outside her own firm through the Women's Bar Association of Illinois lawyer-to-lawyer mentoring program and through her alma mater, Chicago-Kent College of Law. In addition, she recruits law students as clerks for her practice and hosts students in externships.

Margaret co-founded and chaired the Illinois Trial Lawyers' Association Women's Caucus, working to create new opportunities for women in an organization where women comprise only 15% of membership. The events she pioneered there – a Springfield lobbying day and a first-ever ITLA Women's Caucus CLE seminar – set a new standard for the organization, which honored her with the 2018 ITLA President's Award. Today, she is a member of ITLA's Executive Committee, serving as treasurer.

Margaret is also active in the Women's Bar Association of Illinois, the American Association for Justice, and the Illinois State Bar Association.

She and her husband Jeff have two children, Evelyn (7) and William (5), and she has recently taken on the role of e-learning teacher and coach, volunteering to coach her children's youth soccer and T-ball teams in her spare time.



# Olivia Bedi

.....

**PARTNER**  
**NEAL, GERBER & EISENBERG**  
*American University Washington  
College of Law*



“*Olivia is a rock star.*”

Olivia Bedi is a partner in the Intellectual Property and Litigations Groups at Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg. She is a trusted advisor on civil litigation matters, especially regarding intellectual property. She has represented individuals and corporations across the country in complex technological matters. She helps clients protect, enforce, and defend intellectual property rights, including patents, trade secrets, copyrights and trademarks.

An experienced trial lawyer, Olivia has litigated and tried significant cases before the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and other federal courts around the country, and has also briefed and argued patent appeals before the Federal Circuit. Before practicing law, Olivia spent five years as a patent examiner for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, gaining extensive experience regarding the use of procedures available before the USPTO and is a registered patent attorney.

Olivia is a frequent lecturer and panelist at law schools, conferences and other symposiums across the country. She has been recognized for her legal work including Best Lawyers, Illinois Super Lawyers Top 50 Women, Top 100 Illinois Super Lawyers, Top 250 Women IP Attorneys by *Managing IP Magazine*, 40 Under Forty, Diversity MBA's Top 100 under

50 Executive Leaders, The Sandra Day O'Connor Pro Bono Award, and The Northern District of Illinois Excellence in Pro Bono Award.

Olivia is committed to supporting and mentoring others, especially to help promote diversity and inclusion. Among other interests, she currently serves as the Vice-Chair of the Membership Committee for the Economic Club of Chicago; serves as the Executive Director and past President and Founder of the Richard Linn American Inn of Court; serves on both the Local Patent Rules Committee and newly formed Racial Justice Diversity Committee at the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois; and serves on the Board of the American Writers Museum and as Founder and Immediate Past President of its Chicago Council. Olivia is a Women's Coalition delegate for her firm and organizes events for Ladies in IP Society to support and promote women in the intellectual property community.

Olivia graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology with a degree in chemistry. She later met her husband at the American University Washington College of Law in Washington, D.C. When she is not working, Olivia enjoys biking, running and making s'mores with her two children and husband. They live in the city with their beloved pitbull, Chauncey Billups.



## Margaret Benson

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
CHICAGO VOLUNTEER  
LEGAL SERVICES  
Loyola University Chicago  
College of Law

*“The impact that Meg has had on Chicago legal aid, and the clients she’s served over the years cannot be overstated.”*

Margaret Benson is the Executive Director of Chicago Volunteer Legal Services, which has provided free legal services to tens of thousands of people living and working in poverty since 1964, thanks to a small dedicated staff and 3,000 volunteer attorneys. She received her law degree from Loyola University Chicago College of Law in 1979. After working for a small family law firm for two years, she found her passion in 1982 when she joined CVLS in 1982 as a staff attorney. She became deputy director a year later and, in 2004, became executive director.

Meg is responsible for overall program management and fundraising while also coordinating CVLS’ bench, bar and law firm relations. An experienced family law litigator, Meg spent years handling child custody, visitation, adoption and guardianship litigation. She helped draft substantive changes to the Illinois Probate Act and still consults on minor guardianship cases from time to time. She regularly speaks on child custody, client and pro bono issues for the ISBA, CBA and IICLE and writes a bi-monthly column on pro bono for the *Chicago Lawyer*.

In 2017, Meg received Loyola Law School’s Public Service Merit Award. Prior honors include the Chicago Inn of Court Donald Hubert Public Service Award in 2015; the Association of Corporate Counsel-Chicago

Chapter’s Thurgood Marshall Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012; the Illinois State Bar Association’s Board of Governors Award in 2007; the Chicago Bar Foundation’s Thomas H. Morsch Public Service Award in 2001; the Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois’ Esther Rothstein Award in 1999 and Loyola University School of Law’s Public Service Award in 1994.

Meg is an active member of ISBA’s Legislation Committee and former chair of its LawPac Board. She serves on the CBA’s Pro Bono Week Committee and co-chairs the Advisory Committee of the Chicago Bar Foundation’s Legal Aid Academy. Past activities include chair of the Illinois State Bar Association’s Delivery of Legal Services Committee, charter member of the Illinois Pro Bono Center’s Board of Directors, Board of Directors of the Women’s Bar Association of Illinois and two-term ISBA Assembly member.

Meg also serves as the Chair of the Police & Fire Commission for the Village of Winnetka. She spent 11 years on Winnetka’s Zoning Board of Appeals, five of those as Chair and recently chaired its Downtown Master Plan Steering Committee.

She is married to Art Simon, a CVLS volunteer and principal at Crane, Simon, Clar & Goodman. They have three daughters, Julia, Caroline and Gina.





# Monique "Nikki" Bhargava

.....

**PARTNER**  
**LOEB & LOEB'S ADVANCED**  
**MEDIA & TECHNOLOGY**  
*University of Illinois College of Law*



*“Nikki has established herself as the go-to source for advertising agencies.”*

**M**onique ("Nikki") Bhargava is a partner in Loeb & Loeb's Advanced Media & Technology practice. Armed with practical and business-minded solutions, Nikki works with clients to achieve their goals while managing legal risks. She regularly advises brands, advertising agencies, media and technology companies in all aspects of their business, including marketing and product claims, digital media, sponsorships, content and IP licensing. She also focuses on the convergence of advertising and emerging technology, helping clients navigate unique issues in new media, mobile marketing, social media, adtech and user-generated content.

In addition, Nikki assists clients in identifying and managing privacy and data security risks. She works with clients to navigate the rapidly evolving landscape of U.S. privacy laws such as the California Consumer Privacy Act of 2018, as well as global data protection laws (including GDPR). Nikki regularly helps clients comply with complex privacy regulation and develop data use and protection strategies by evaluating and

optimizing practices around data collection, use, and monetization, developing data policies, conducting privacy assessments, and drafting / negotiating data privacy related agreements.

Widely recognized as a thought leader in her field, Nikki is a frequent speaker at industry and bar association conferences and has published a number of articles on advertising and privacy topics.

Outside of the office, Nikki has served as an adjunct professor at the University of Illinois College of Law, where she has taught advertising and promotions law. She is committed to pro bono service and volunteers for the Domestic Violence Legal Clinic and Lawyers for the Creative Arts and serves on the Board of Directors of Chicago Volunteer Legal Services.

She is also an active member of several national and local organizations focused on the development and advancement of diverse talent in the legal profession, including serving as VP of Affiliate Relations on the South Asian Bar Association of North America.



## Bethany K. Biesenthal

PARTNER  
**JONES DAY**  
John Marshall Law School

“*Bethany is always thinking about how she can help, coach, connect, or simply just listen.*”

For more than 10 years, Bethany Biesenthal served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, where she successfully tried more than 20 federal cases to verdict. Bethany led hundreds of investigations in areas including national security, health care fraud, bankruptcy fraud, securities fraud, Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, public corruption, and cybercrimes. She also served as point of contact for FBI counter-terrorism squads, charged a complex fraud resulting from a bank failure, defended the constitutionality of a domestic terrorism statute, and served as the point of contact for domestic and sexual abuse.

Bethany served as senior litigation counsel, where she supervised all cases tried in the Criminal Division and counseled attorneys on complex matters of national significance.

Bethany served as coordinator of the Human Trafficking section and

was a member of the Cook County Task Force Against Human Trafficking. She frequently speaks on conducting human trafficking and sexual abuse investigations and corporate compliance requirements relating to labor trafficking.

Bethany also has taught classes on trial advocacy, domestic terrorism, cybercrimes, and economic espionage.

Bethany has been twice honored by the Director of the FBI and has been recognized by the Chicago Crime Commission, U.S. Marshals Service, Cook County Crime Stoppers, and the Chicago Police Department.

Before joining the USAO, Bethany worked for a large law firm, where she took and defended dozens of depositions, participated in a securities fraud arbitration, and tried a breach of contract case.

Bethany serves on the board of a local elementary school and is an active member in various bar associations.



# Cathy Birkeland

CHICAGO OFFICE MANAGING PARTNER  
**LATHAM & WATKINS**  
Northwestern Pritzker School of Law



*“Cathy dedicates significant time to mentoring junior lawyers and is passionate about supporting Latham’s commitment to diversity.”*

Cathy Birkeland is the Managing Partner of the Chicago office of Latham & Watkins, where she has practiced for her entire career and is the first female to hold the position of Chicago Office Managing Partner. Prior to her current leadership role Cathy was Global Co-Chair of the firm’s Capital Markets Practice and served as Chicago Office Deputy Managing Partner. Under Cathy’s leadership, the 185-lawyer Chicago office has strategically grown several key practice groups that are key to the firm’s global platform.

In addition to her leadership role, Cathy maintains a cutting-edge corporate practice, routinely advising on the most sophisticated capital markets transactions, including IPOs, dual track IPO/M&A processes, spin-offs, follow-on offerings, and block trades, as well as general public company representation, corporate governance, and advising boards of directors on corporate matters. Her clients include public and private companies of all sizes in Chicago and across the globe, from Fortune 500 companies to emerging growth companies, investment banking firms, investors, and private equity firms. She has experience with numerous industries, including technology, hospitality, REITs, consumer retail, financial services, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, and manufacturing.

Cathy dedicates significant time to mentoring junior lawyers and pas-

sionately supports Latham’s commitment to diversity. She has served on the firm’s Global Diversity Leadership Committee, was a founding partner of Latham’s annual Women’s Leadership Academy, and currently leads Latham’s Chicago Taskforce for the Commitment to Racial Justice and Equality, dedicated to fighting racial injustice and promoting equality through pro bono efforts, programming, and financial support for Chicago-based organizations.

Outside of the office Cathy is actively involved with supporting the Regenstein Cardiac Care Unit at the Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago and serves on the Chicago Board of Camp Kesem, a national organization that supports children through and beyond their parent’s cancer. She is also a member of The Chicago Network, an organization that brings together influential women leaders at the forefront of business, professional, cultural, nonprofit, and educational communities with the purpose of empowering women to lead.

Highly regarded by clients and peers, Cathy has been recognized each year since 2017 on the Notable Women in Law list by *Crain’s Chicago Business*. The *Chicago Business Journal* has also recognized Cathy on its *Women of Influence* list.

She earned her JD, *cum laude*, from Northwestern Pritzker School of Law.





## Amy Blumenthal

MANAGING PARTNER  
**GOULD & RATNER**  
George Washington  
University Law School

“*Recognized by her peers and clients as a leader in the industry.*”

**R**ecognized by her peers and clients as a leader in commercial real estate, Amy Blumenthal has 35 years of experience in all areas of real estate, including office, retail, hotel, industrial and luxury residential properties, often concentrating on financing, acquisitions and sales, as well as real estate development and land use. Her clients, from a variety of industries such as manufacturing, hospitality, food and beverage, and publishing, value her ability to listen and understand their priorities and needs to best help them achieve their business goals.

Amy's diverse practice includes representing owners, developers, lenders and investors in negotiating the acquisition, financing and zoning of property through its ultimate development, leasing and/or sale. She has a full range of experience helping clients with financing, ranging from initial acquisition to development and ultimately permanent financing, including working with senior debt, mezzanine debt and private equity.

In working to close deals, Amy strives to understand not only her client's strategy and motivations, but also what is driving all other parties to the transaction. Finely honed listening and negotiation skills. As part of her practice, Amy also handles high-stakes property tax appeals before a variety of governmental bodies, guiding clients through complex

assessment issues for large commercial and industrial buildings, as well as luxury residential properties.

Amy is very active in the commercial real estate community. She currently serves on the board of directors and is Immediate Past President of CREW Chicago, a member chapter of the CREW Network, an organization of over 12,000 women engaged in all of the professions associated with the commercial real estate industry.

Once a pediatric oncology nurse, Amy remains committed to supporting worthy causes in the health care community in Chicago. She provides ongoing service as a member of the board of directors of the Erie Family Health Foundation, which supports the mission of the Erie Family Health Center to provide high-quality, affordable health care for lower-income city residents.

Amy has been recognized as an *Illinois Super Lawyer* for Real Estate, an *Illinois Leading Lawyer* in the areas of Land Use, Zoning & Condemnation, Commercial Real Estate and Real Estate Finance and a *Best Lawyer* in the area of Real Estate Law. She also has been recognized by *Crain's Chicago Business* as a "Notable Woman Executive Over 50" for 2020 and 2019, and a "Chicago Notable Woman Lawyer." In January 2018, Amy was inducted into the Commercial Real Estate Hall of Fame by *Midwest Real Estate News*.



# Patricia C. Bobb

.....

PRINCIPAL  
**PATRICIA C. BOBB & ASSOCIATES**  
OF COUNSEL TO THE LAW FIRM OF  
**MEYERS & FLOWERS**  
*University Notre Dame Law School*



“*One of the first and most prominent female trial lawyers in Illinois.*”

**P**atricia C. Bobb is principal of the law firm of Patricia C. Bobb & Associates and Of Counsel to Meyers & Flowers. As a civil trial lawyer, Patti specializes in plaintiffs' personal injury law with an emphasis in medical malpractice litigation. She also represents individuals in general civil litigation. She has tried and settled hundreds of cases. She has extensive experience in consulting, teaching jury selection and case analysis and has run many jury focus groups. She has also conducted numerous mediations in medical malpractice cases and other types of major civil litigation.

Before starting her own practice, Patti was a partner of the firm Bobb, Kane, Obbish and Propes and an associate at the Law Offices of Philip H. Corboy & Associates. Prior to working in the private sector, Patti served as an Assistant States Attorney for Cook County in the Felony Trial Division after receiving her law degree from the University of Notre Dame School of Law.

Patti has also been actively involved in many professional organizations including serving as President of the Chicago Bar Association and as a member of the Board of Governors of the Illinois State Bar Association. She was elected to the American College of Trial Lawyers and served as a Regent for Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana on ACTL's Board of Regents. She was elected as a Fellow of International Society of Barristers and the International Society of Barristers. She is also a member of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association and has served on ITLA's Board of

Managers. She is a member of the American Bar Association, Litigation Section, and has served on a number of ABA committees.

Patti was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to serve on the Supreme Court Rules Committee and also served as the Chair of that committee for a number of years. The Illinois Supreme Court also appointed her Commissioner of the Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission.

Patti is involved in the training of other lawyers as a member of the Board of the National Institute of Trial Advocacy having previously served as its Chairman. She is a former Adjunct Professor of Trial Advocacy for Northwestern University Law School, and has taught, spoken and written for various bar associations and advocacy programs for over 35 years including the National Institute of Trial Advocacy, the American Bar Association, the American Justice Association, the Chicago Bar Association, and many other state and national organizations.

She also has served as an appointed member of the Chicago Police Board and as Chair of The Chicago Network. In 2004, Patti was selected by the *Sun Times* as one of the 100 most influential women in Chicago and one of ten of Chicago's most influential women attorneys.

In every year since 2007, Patti has been selected in a survey of her peers, through the *Leading Lawyers Network*, as a Leading Lawyer and was selected over ten times as the #1 Leading Woman Lawyer in Illinois.



## Deane B. Brown

.....  
SHAREHOLDER  
**HUGHES SOCOL PIERS  
RESNICK & DYM, LTD.**  
*Boston University School of Law*

*“Deane Brown is a shining example of a strong and generous leader who has dedicated her career to representing and mentoring women.”*

**D**eane B. Brown, a Shareholder at Hughes, Socol Piers Resnick & Dym, Ltd., has earned a highly regarded reputation in the Chicago legal community as a tenacious, strategic and skilled advocate for her clients. An accomplished lawyer for 30 years, Deane has extensive experience representing executives and employees in all areas of employment law, including severance negotiations; employment discrimination issues in the EEOC, IDHR and court; non-competition, non-solicitation and trade secret disputes; executive compensation issues; and in negotiating employment agreements. Deane represents clients who have been the victims of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin and disability discrimination. She represents women who have been sexually harassed in the work place, sales representatives who have been wrongfully denied bonuses and commissions, and executives in challenging overbroad and unenforceable non-competition agreements, among many other types of employment matters.

Deane is extremely experienced in representing C-Suite and senior executives in public and private companies in negotiating and drafting employment agreements. She handles sophisticated equity and compensation issues involving long-term and short-term incentive plans, stock options, and restricted stock unit agreements. Deane also assists clients in negotiating signing and retention bonuses, non-compete and non-solicitation provisions as well as confidentiality and trade secret agreements. She also handles shareholder and partnership agreements.

Deane is a leader in the Chicago legal community. She is the Im-

mediate Past President of the Illinois Bar Foundation, the charitable arm of the Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA), and previously served as President of the Women's Bar Association of Illinois (WBAI), Chair of the ISBA Bench & Bar Section Council, and Chair of the ISBA Professional Conduct Committee. In addition, Deane is a strong supporter of other professional women. She served as President of the Professional Women's Club of Chicago and is a founder of the Exclusive Professional Women's Networking Group (EPWNG).

Deane has been repeatedly recognized as a top lawyer in Illinois. For the last eight years, she has been named to the list of Top 100 Lawyers in Illinois for all practice areas, and for more than a decade, she has been named to the list of Top 50 Women Lawyers in Illinois, in *Illinois Super Lawyers Magazine*. Deane has also been selected for inclusion in the 2010 and all subsequent editions of *The Best Lawyers in America* in the areas of Ethics and Professional Responsibility Law. She has been recognized in *Leading Lawyers Network Magazine-Women's Edition* as being among the Top Ten Women Lawyers in Illinois among all practice areas.

Deane has also been honored for her contributions to the legal profession. In 2015, Deane received the Top Women Lawyers in Leadership Award from the WBAI, an award given to outstanding women lawyers serving in a leadership role, who have excelled in their chosen field and who have gone beyond traditional mentoring to create new pathways for other women. Deane was also named by the Law Bulletin Media in 2012 as one of 15 women attorneys in the legal community making a unique impact on the profession.





# Amy P. Campanelli

.....

**PUBLIC DEFENDER  
COOK COUNTY**  
*Chicago-Kent College of Law*



*“Amy is a shining example of leadership and is part of any conversation of leading women in Chicago’s legal community.”*

**A**my P. Campanelli was sworn in as the tenth Public Defender of Cook County on April 1, 2015. Amy’s appointment was the culmination of 27 years of representing the indigent accused. Amy started as an Assistant Public Defender in November 1987, assigned to the Juvenile Division. Three years later she moved to the Felony Trial Division. In 1998, Amy temporarily left the Office, but continued to take criminal cases in private practice. Five years later, in 2003, she returned to the Office as an Attorney Supervisor assigned to the Felony Trial Division.

Amy became the Chief Assistant Public Defender of Cook County’s Bridgeview Courthouse in 2008. She became the Capital Case Coordinator for the Office in 2010. While coordinating all death penalty litigation resources in the Office, she organized jury focus groups, and spearheaded a two-day capital litigation conference with experts from around the globe. After the death penalty was abolished in Illinois, she served as Deputy Chief of the Homicide Task Force and Deputy Chief of the Felony Trial Division. In 2012, Amy became the Deputy Public Defender in charge of all five Suburban districts in Cook County, a position she held until her appointment as the Public Defender. She currently manages a budget of \$80 million and a staff of approximately 700.

Multiple initiatives have been launched during her administration, including: the Police Station Representation Unit, making attorneys available 24/7 to respond to calls for counsel by anyone in custody throughout Cook County; the Mental Health Unit, staffed with an in-house

psychologist and social workers trained to identify clients with mental health issues; and grant outreach, bringing much needed resources to her office to support clients both in and out of the courtroom. She is currently working to open an Immigration Unit within the Public Defender’s Office to provide legal representation and social help for clients who face deportation. In June 2020, the Public Defender’s Police Station Unit was recognized nationally by NACO (National Association of Counties) in the area of Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Amy has worked tirelessly to obtain the release of over 2000 clients from the Cook County Jail, while working with other stakeholders to provide necessary services to those released.

Recently, *Chicago Magazine* declared Amy as one of the 50 most powerful women in Chicago and in September 2020, Amy received the Illinois Institute of Technology Alumni Association’s 2020 Professional Achievement Award. This award honors alumni whose achievements in their fields have brought distinction to themselves as well as credit to Illinois Institute of Technology.

Amy received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Illinois, Urbana and her Juris Doctor from Chicago-Kent College of Law. Amy is a lifelong member of the Delta Delta Delta Sorority. She is married to Patrick Campanelli, and they have three children: Paul, Anna-belle, and Emily. Amy is the second female to serve as Public Defender of Cook County.



# We salute you, too, Nancy!

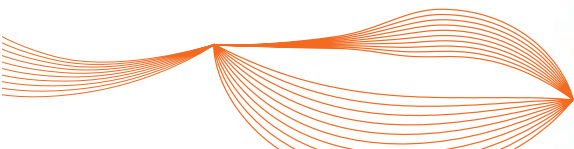
Shirley Ryan AbilityLab joins the *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin* and *Chicago Lawyer* in honoring Nancy E. Paridy, JD, LLM, as an inaugural recipient of the Salute! Women in Law award.

Over more than a quarter century, Nancy has earned our respect and gratitude for all her work on behalf of our research hospital, patients and the field of physical medicine and rehabilitation. We've seen firsthand how Nancy revels in advancing others — in her profession, her community and her life.

We are proud to call her one of our own, and so proud of her.

Congratulations, Nancy!  
We celebrate you... and we love you.

Shirley Ryan  
**Abilitylab**®







## Meredith E. Ritchie

Thanks the *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin* & *Chicago Lawyer* for naming her a 2020 Salute! Women in Law honoree and congratulates her fellow honorees.

She also thanks Alliant Credit Union, DePaul University College of Law and her family for their support.







## Kara E.F. Cenar

OFFICER  
**GREENSFELDER, HEMKER & GALE, P.C.**  
Loyola University Chicago  
School of Law

*“Kara is a brilliant IP litigation attorney and a thought-leader on women’s issues.”*

**K**ara E.F. Cenar is an officer in the Intellectual Property Practice Group at Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale, P.C. in Chicago. She takes lead trial and litigation roles in important and complex intellectual property matters for domestic and international companies of all sizes, as well as individuals. She handles the enforcement of IP rights and the defense of alleged violations of the IP rights of others. She is team leader for the firm’s IP litigation practice.

Kara combines decades of counseling, trial and litigation experience with practical business applications to assist clients in matters involving technology, patents, design patents, trade secrets, copyrights, trade dress and trademarks. Her experience as a trial lawyer includes jury and bench trials, preliminary injunction hearings, hearings on emergency temporary restraining orders, seizure and impoundment orders and Section 337 claims before the International Trade Commission.

In 2019, Kara successfully led a multimillion-dollar copyright infringement jury trial to verdict and obtained a \$20.7 million judgment involving some of the gaming industry’s top casino slot games (artwork and graphics for video reel casino slot machine games), including social, mobile, online and CD/DVD casino game distribution. Kara also has successfully defended other high-profile multimillion-dollar copyright matters involving prominent hit musical works and digital music,

leading to defense summary judgments. Kara’s copyright infringement work further includes literary works, sculptural arts for well-known plush toys, software, CAD and digital technical and engineering drawings, and casino slot games.

Kara also has been involved in complex trade secret cases related to technology in numerous industries, as well as design patent infringement litigation and ITC proceedings concerning the automotive after-market parts, consumer products and power tool industries. She has vast experience in the enforcement and defense of trademarks and trade dress that includes representation of famous and distinguished brands.

Her practice also involves counseling and assisting individuals and businesses with intellectual property rights, business issues, and litigation including international businesses in this industry seeking to do business in the United States.

Kara is a founding member of the Intellectual Property Institute and Chicago Women in Intellectual Property. A graduate of Loyola University Chicago School of Law, she is recognized by Illinois Super Lawyers in Intellectual Property Litigation and by Illinois Leading Lawyers and The Best Lawyers in America and was named to the Crain’s Notable Women in Law list for 2020.



# Marilee Clausing

MANAGING PARTNER  
**HALL PRANGLE & SCHOONVELD LLC**  
*DePaul University College of Law*



“*Marilee is a trailblazer for women attorneys. Her integrity, intelligence and skills make her deserving of any award.*”

**M**arilee Clausing is the rare trial attorney whose skill and success in the courtroom is matched by her leadership beyond its doors.

In court, Marilee represents hospitals and healthcare providers in catastrophic cases that are often fraught with emotions as well as high exposure—many involving birth trauma, neonatal and pediatric negligence. Her approach in such cases is rooted in both legal and medical expertise. Marilee worked for several years as an obstetrical nurse prior to becoming an attorney. That range of insight, combined with the extraordinary preparation that has become another of Marilee’s trademarks, has led to extensive trial success and established her as one of the nation’s premier medical malpractice defense attorneys. Among Marilee’s accolades is the *Jury Verdict Reporter* Trial Lawyer Excellence Award for Career Achievement, which recognizes her for having consistently delivered exceptional results for her clients in trials with high verdict potential.

Marilee’s legacy of achievement extends beyond the courtroom. She is a celebrated leader and mentor who founded Hall Prangle + Schoonveld’s Birth Trauma Team in 2015 and now guides the firm as its Managing Partner.

In the latter role, Marilee provides leadership, direction and operational oversight to HPS’s ten offices nationwide. She works with the Executive Committee and Equity Partnership to develop the firm’s vision and strategic plan, and also oversees the plan’s implementation. Central to that vision is an ongoing commitment to excellence, tireless

client service, and a focus on training and mentorship for HPS’ next generation of attorneys.

Marilee grew up in Chicago’s southwest suburbs and earned her undergraduate degree at Marquette University in Milwaukee, then worked for several years as a nurse in both Illinois and New Jersey. Marilee continued her nursing work part-time even after she enrolled at DePaul University College of Law in Chicago, and despite that busy schedule, she excelled at DePaul, where she graduated with honors and was editor-in-chief of the *DePaul Law Review*.

After graduation, Marilee joined the Chicago office of law firm Lord, Bissel & Brook, where she remained for over 15 years, was named an equity partner and established herself as one of Chicago’s top trial attorneys. She then spent 15 years as a partner at Anderson, Rasor & Partners in Chicago, before leaving to join HPS in 2015.

Marilee’s accolades include a Lifetime Achievement Award from America’s Top 100 Attorneys. She also has been recognized by her peers as both a Leading Lawyer and a Super Lawyer, and has been awarded an AV Preeminent Rating by LexisNexis/Martindale-Hubbell, which is the highest possible rating for legal ability and ethical standards.

Marilee is a nationally renowned speaker on obstetric risk management and related legal issues. She also sits on the board of the Illinois Society of Trial Lawyers and is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates; American Society for Healthcare Risk Management; Illinois Society of Healthcare Risk Management; Chicago Healthcare Risk Management Society; and the Women’s Bar Association of Illinois.



## Tara R. Devine

PARTNER  
SALVI, SCHOSTOK & PRITCHARD P.C.  
Marquette University Law School

*“What sets Tara apart is how she empowers those around her.”*

Tara R. Devine joined Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard P.C. in 2004 and became the firm's first female partner in 2011. In 2018, Tara was promoted to Managing Partner of the firm's Lake County office. She concentrates her practice in the areas of personal injury, nursing home negligence, wrongful death, medical malpractice and product liability cases.

Tara has helped achieve numerous multi-million dollar verdicts and settlements on behalf of her clients in personal injury, medical malpractice and wrongful death suits. In August 2017, she was part of the trial team that obtained a record-setting \$148 million jury verdict on behalf of a dancer paralyzed by a collapsed pedestrian shelter at O'Hare International Airport. The verdict is the largest personal injury verdict ever awarded to an individual plaintiff in Illinois history.

Several months later, the City of Chicago appealed the verdict and the case settled for a record-breaking \$115 million. In 2016, Ms. Devine obtained an \$18.5 million settlement on behalf of a child who suffered a serious brain injury due to a delay in the diagnosis and treatment of meningitis. That same year, Tara obtained a \$1.6 million verdict in a wrongful death case, the highest recorded verdict in Stephenson County.

Tara is licensed and practices in Illinois and Wisconsin.

In 2019, she was named to Crain's Custom Media's Chicago Gen X Leaders in Law list and 2018 Notable Women Lawyers in Chicago list. She was named to the 2021 Edition of Best Lawyers. In 2018, she received a Trial Lawyer Excellence Award from Law Bulletin Media. In 2016, she received the Lake County Journal's "Women of Distinction" award. Tara has also been named to Law Bulletin Media's *Leading Lawyers* list, an honor given to the top 2% of lawyers in Illinois who are age 40 or younger or have practiced 10 years or less. In 2014, she was named one of Law Bulletin Media's 40 Illinois Attorneys to Watch Under Forty.

Tara received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Illinois and her law degree from Marquette University. Currently, Tara is an active Marquette alumni member and has previously served as a Committee member for the Annual Chicago Marquette Lawyer Reception.

Additional credentials and distinctions include: serving as a Board Member of the Lake County Bar Association and a member of the Chicago Bar Association, Illinois State Bar Association, and the Wisconsin State Bar Association. Tara is also involved with the American Association for Justice and the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, where she serves on the Board of Managers and has been a guest speaker at the association's legal seminars.





# Marci Eisenstein

.....

**MANAGING PARTNER**  
**SCHIFF HARDIN LLP**  
*New York University School of Law*



“*Marci is a known advocate for greater diversity and inclusion in the legal industry.*”

**M**arci Eisenstein is the managing partner of Schiff Hardin LLP. She has spent the last 30 years defending major corporations against more than 100 class action challenges in federal and state courts nationwide, and is one of few lawyers in the country to try a nationwide consumer class action to verdict.

When Marci was elected managing partner in 2015, she became the first woman to hold this top post in the firm's 150-year history. Under her leadership, Schiff Hardin was twice named an "Illinois Powerhouse" by Law360 in 2018 and 2019. Marci remains among only a handful of female managing partners in big law firms across the United States.

Marci is a strong mentor and champion for diversity in the legal profession. Having spent her entire professional legal career at Schiff Hardin, Marci helped found the firm's Women's Networking Group in 1998, which was created in recognition of the different avenues for developing business that women lawyers may take compared to their male counterparts. Since its launch, the group has hosted career advancement and mentoring programs, internal and external networking events, and a wide range of business development initiatives—all aimed at providing opportunities for women to become business rainmakers.

Marci was also a founding member of the firm's Diversity Committee

in the early 2000s, recognizing that diversity produces the best thinking and results for clients. She personally reviews how client matters are staffed to ensure that opportunities are distributed fairly and that attorneys who have the skills to address a client's needs are provided the opportunity to do so.

Under Marci's leadership, Schiff Hardin has participated in the Mansfield Rule program for the third straight year, committing to increase diversity within its leadership ranks.

In 2019, the firm achieved Mansfield Certified Plus status for exceeding the requirements of the program. With physical and mental health at the forefront of the legal industry today, one of Marci's signature initiatives has been to launch the firm's first comprehensive wellness program.

Marci uses her role and platform to share her unique perspectives and learnings as a female leader in law, and to encourage others to follow her example. She regularly speaks at legal conferences around the country about law firm strategy and the importance of broadening opportunities to diverse professionals. In addition to practicing law, Marci is an active and longtime board member of the Illinois chapter of JDRF, the world's leading organization funding type 1 diabetes research.



## Angela Elbert

CHAIR, INSURANCE POLICYHOLDER  
PRACTICE GROUP  
**NEAL GERBER EISENBERG**  
Indiana University School of Law

“Angela fosters the advancement of young women and other female lawyers.”

Angela Elbert is chair of the Neal Gerber Eisenberg Insurance Policyholder practice group. A partner in the firm's litigation group, she counsels clients on complex risk management and insurance issues and helps them obtain the maximum recovery possible when claims arise. With over two decades of experience, Angela has been instrumental in recovering hundreds of millions of dollars of insurance for her clients through negotiation, mediation and, where necessary, litigation. Her nationwide risk management practice spans a broad range of capabilities, including negotiating insurance with the best terms available, providing strategic assistance on the insurance aspects of complex corporate transactions, resolving financial insolvency concerns and evaluating, preparing and enforcing indemnification agreements.

With considerable experience managing insurance coverage and commercial litigation disputes before state and federal courts and arbitration panels, Angela focuses her national litigation practice primarily on prosecuting policyholder claims for a wide array of insurance lines.

Her clients hold numerous, complex insurance policies, and typically need guidance to orchestrate the coverage those policies provide. After thoroughly reviewing clients' insurance portfolios, Angela assists clients to establish necessary coverage levels and eliminate gaps that could leave their businesses exposed.

She is an inspirational lawyer beloved by her clients. In June 2020,

Angela was selected for the American College of Coverage Counsel's (ACCC) Thomas F. Segalla Service Award in recognition of her dedication and service to the ACCC. The award recognizes recipients that demonstrate creativity, visibility and persistence to their practice, volunteerism and leadership in the practice of law. In 2018, the BTI Consulting Group recognized Angela as a Client Service All-Star recognizing her superior client focus, legal skills and value-added service. The award is based solely on feedback compiled from interviews with top in-house counsel. Angela is also currently recognized in *Chambers USA* "Insurance: Dispute Resolution"; *The Best Lawyers in America* "Insurance Law"; and Top 50 Women Illinois Super Lawyers.

In addition to her robust practice, she is a member of NGE's Women's Network Leadership Team, Marketing Committee, and Associate Review Committee, and actively participates in the ABA Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee. She is a frequent speaker on insurance topics and is a former chair of the Insurance Committee of the ABA's Section of Litigation. Angela leads and drives programs for the advancement of young women and the enrichment of other female lawyers. She formally served on the National Board of Directors for Step Up, helping teenage girls in schools in major cities ready themselves for college, work, and life. She also formerly served as a board member and treasurer of the Coalition of Women's Initiatives in Law.



## Amy Garrett

.....

**ASSISTANT MANAGING PARTNER  
SIMMONS HANLY CONROY**  
*Washington University School of Law*



**“Amy is responsible for forming the firm’s pro-bono program, which provides free representation/legal services to those who would not otherwise have access to them.”**

**S**hareholder Amy Garrett brings more than 22 years of litigation experience to her leadership role as Assistant Managing Shareholder at Simmons Hanly Conroy. She has developed a fierce reputation for protecting the rights of her asbestos and complex litigation clients both in and out of the courtroom.

During Amy’s tenure as a firm leader, the firm has secured billions of dollars in verdicts and settlements on behalf of its clients. Amy joined the firm in 2003. She became an asbestos trial team leader in 2007 and the firm’s first female shareholder in 2009. She has since mentored several other women to partnership.

Since 2019, Amy has served as one of two assistant managing shareholders and is a member of the firm’s executive committee. She currently leads the firm’s diversity and inclusion efforts in addition to other managerial responsibilities.

As a veteran litigator, she also oversees the Madison County and St. Louis asbestos dockets and works closely with attorneys in both the Asbestos and Complex Litigation departments to prepare cases for trial. Her litigation work has secured millions of dollars on behalf of her clients affected by asbestos.

“Helping give people facing a terminal diagnosis some peace of mind makes every day as a lawyer worthwhile,” Amy said. “I still correspond

with former clients, and nothing brings me greater satisfaction than when I hear the firm’s work allowed the family to stay afloat, pay for their kids’ college and continue to lead some of the life they had intended before mesothelioma.”

A native of the metro St. Louis area, Amy has always looked for ways to give back to her community. She is a past director of the firm’s employee foundation, which has donated more than \$1 million to charities in the St. Louis area. She also founded and is the coordinator for the firm’s pro bono program and serves on the Third Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee in Madison County, Ill.

As a former prosecutor, she also helped develop Simmons Hanly Conroy’s Expungement Day and Road to Work programs. In conjunction with local law enforcement agencies, these programs helped Madison County residents remove minor criminal charges from their records and reinstate their driving privileges so they could find employment, obtain affordable housing or further their education.

“I have a genuine interest in every person’s story and feel like it’s my job to give our clients the power to fight for themselves and their families,” Amy said.

Amy graduated with a B.A. in English from the University of Illinois-Champaign/Urbana in 1995.





## Teresa Wilton Harmon

MANAGING PARTNER  
**SIDLEY**

The University of Chicago Law School

*“Teresa is laser focused on cross-generational mentoring and unlocking the potential of women in different seasons of their careers.”*

**T**eresa Wilton Harmon is the managing partner of Sidley's Chicago office and a partner in the firm's Global Finance practice area, focusing on financial transactions and commercial law. Her financial transactions experience includes secured and unsecured loans, workouts and restructurings, structured finance and securitization.

For several years, Teresa's practice has placed particular emphasis on financial transactions involving regulated and emerging industries, including derivatives, clearing organizations, exchanges, financial market utilities, student loan companies, electric utilities and fintech companies. Her experience and knowledge allow her to bridge the gap between complex legal regimes and sound financial principles. Teresa takes an active role in counseling regulated industry clients and financial market participants on liquidity solutions, collateral and risk management methods, default scenarios, counterparty risk, netting and adapting to new legal regimes.

Teresa's commercial law practice includes all articles of the Uniform Commercial Code, with a special emphasis on Article 9 secured transactions. Teresa's commercial law experience includes using the tools of commercial law to help clients build and navigate blockchain, distributed ledger technology, virtual currency, digital currency and tokenized security platforms. Teresa has honed her UCC knowledge as an active

participant in UCC drafting committees, as a member of the Permanent Editorial Board for the UCC and as an adjunct professor teaching Secured Transactions at The University of Illinois College of Law. She is a nationally recognized speaker on UCC and other commercial law issues and is a co-author of a widely distributed annual Commercial Law Developments update.

Teresa has been named to *Crain's Chicago Business'* 2019 "Notable Gen X Leaders in Law" list and 2020 "Notable Women Executives Over 50" list. She has also recently been named a "Trailblazer in Finance and Banking" by *The National Law Journal* (2019).

Teresa's civic and professional leadership roles include the Board of Directors of The Executives' Club of Chicago, The Chicago Network, and a Daniel Burnham Fellowship - Leadership Greater Chicago. She is Second Vice President, a member of the Executive Committee and a member of the Council of the American Law Institute, a Fellow and Regent of the American College of Commercial Finance Lawyers, and a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

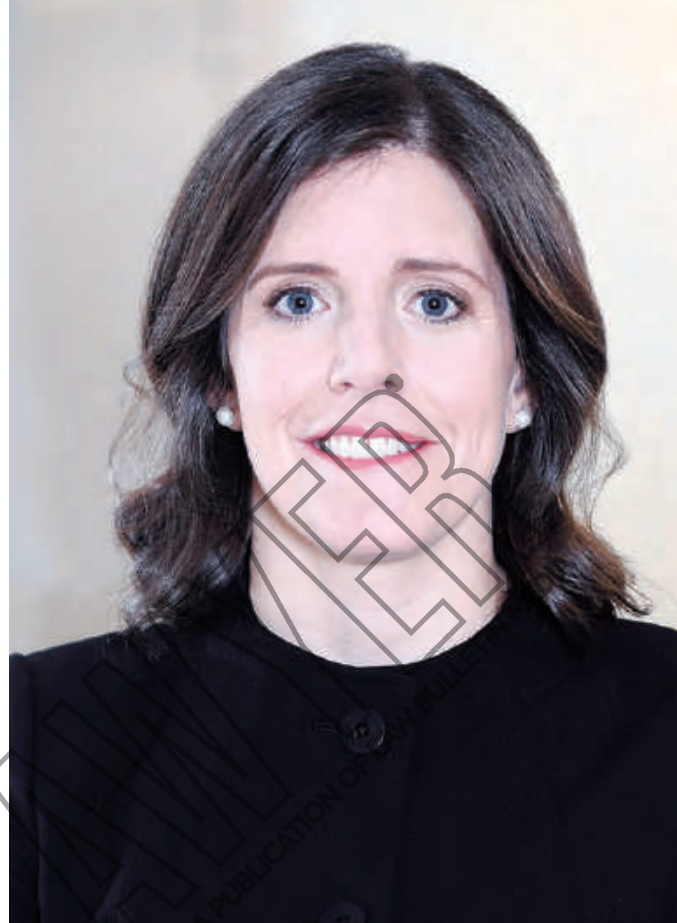
Teresa graduated with honors from The University of Chicago Law School, where she served on The Law Review and was President of the Law Students Association. She attended undergraduate and graduate school at the University of Alabama, and she remains an avid college football fan.



# Corinne Cantwell Heggie

.....

PARTNER  
**WOCHNER LAW FIRM LLC**  
*DePaul University College of Law*



“Corinne creates an environment of collegiality, inclusiveness and accessibility.”

Corinne Cantwell Heggie is a partner at Wochner Law Firm and devotes her practice to safeguarding individuals from legal battles, asset loss and taxes with estate planning. Corinne's work with financial services companies as a Big Law partner qualifies her to collaborate with banks, financial advisors, and trust departments to advance her clients' legacy goals with estate plans. Corinne regularly appears in probate courts when a judge must determine where an asset distributes.

Corinne is the immediate past President of the Women's Bar Association of Illinois (WBAI). Under Corinne's leadership, WBAI forged an unprecedented number of partnerships and alliances with other bar associations, the judiciary and government offices at the local and state levels to launch a collaborative celebration and commemoration of a civic milestone's centennial year: the passage of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution providing women the right to vote. In board rooms and offices across Illinois, Corinne reminded people of the perseverance of the women who advocated, collaborated and partnered, many times meeting with adversity and opposition, as they fought a battle spanning two centuries and nearly 100 years.

With her graceful, yet determined and focused leadership style, Corinne creates an environment of collegiality, inclusiveness and acces-

sibility. Her election to the Presidency of WBAI was the culmination of a lengthy career record of service to the WBAI and to the profession. Additionally, Corinne has served in executive and board member positions on the North Suburban Bar Association working to improve access to the legal system and attorney civic engagement.

In 2017 Best Lawyers named Corinne a "Women of Influence" nationally in the legal profession. Since 2019, Corinne has been selected as an Illinois Super Lawyer based on an evaluation including factors such as peer recognition and professional achievement in legal practice. Previously, Corinne was an Illinois Rising Star.

Outside of work, Corinne is a frequent lecturer and her work has been published in the *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*. Corinne is a columnist for the *Daily Herald's* Glenview and Northbrook weekly publication. She is active in her community as a member of Lyon School/Pleasant Ridge PTA and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish's Women's Club. Corinne has served on the Executive Board of Glenview Community Church Nursery School and the Board of Trustees of the Glenbrook District 225 High School Foundation.

She and her husband and law partner John are raising three sons. Her family is active in scouting, sports, and ministries dedicated to women and children in crisis.





# A JUSTICE AND HER DAUGHTERS

Sarah and Jennifer Burke interview their Mom, Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Anne M. Burke on her love of the law and a successful career

By Jennifer Burke and Sarah Burke



**CL:** *What attracted you to the law and going to law school?*

**Justice Burke:** It was never a childhood dream to go to law school or to become a lawyer or judge. In fact, I never considered going to law school until after I completed my undergraduate degree in 1976. At that time, I was already married, the mother of three small children, and expecting a fourth.

Following high school, I dropped out of college after completing only one year. After dropping out of college, I began working for at the Chicago Park District, where I taught physical education to children and young adults with mental and physical differences. I got married and started a family, while continuing to volunteer in programs and organizations concentrating on helping people with learning differences and other vulnerable populations.

The decision to attend law school was made after I graduated from college and our fourth child was 3 years old. My husband suggested that, while I was very involved with helping vulnerable populations, I could be a better advocate for them as a lawyer.

Many times we don't "listen" to our hearts or the people in our lives – family, friends, mentors – who offer advice or suggestions. I took my husband's advice, and it changed my life. The law opened my eyes to so many new ideas and opportunities for me to speak for those who have no voice of their own.

**Sarah:** *What is the biggest factor that has helped you be successful?*

**Justice Burke:** A loving family growing up, and parents who always encouraged me to enjoy everything – arts, sports, sewing – it was my teacher at Maria High School, Sr. Henrietta, who first steered me on the path for my future. Sr. Henrietta knew that I had difficulty reading and writing. She asked me what I most loved to do. I told her I loved sports and the arts and she told me to follow my heart. She suggested that I become a Physical Education teacher. I "listened" to her.

Sr. Henrietta also helped me with my studies so I could apply for a scholarship to study Physical Education. It was a turning point in my life. Without knowing at that time that I am dyslexic, Sr. Henrietta gave me the help and advice that gave me a path forward. I am grateful to her every day.

**Sarah:** *What are your success habits?*

**Justice Burke:** I am not sure that this is a "habit." However, at his point in my life, as I look back, I think the "habit" that is a part of me is taking a team approach. It began on the playing field and has been my first thought when dealing with most things in life – "Who can I put on my team"? Throughout my life, in almost every situation, my tutors, teachers, advisors, mentors, co-workers, family, and friends became my "team" and, in one way or another, they contributed to my success.

**Sarah:** *What mistakes have you made along the way and what was the hardest decision you ever had to make?*

**Justice Burke:** I have made many mistakes and many hard decisions in my lifetime and, undoubtedly, will make more. After all, to err is human. I just pray that the decisions I make do not cause harm. I always try my very hardest to be thoughtful and thorough when making decisions – whether in my personal or my professional life.

The hardest part about making mistakes is admitting them. I will never forget one time when I admitted making a mistake to my son, Emmett. He told me he appreciated me telling him I was sorry. His words continue to serve as a reminder to me that when you make a mistake it is important to admit it.

**Jennifer:** *Does being a parent and grandparent impact how you do your job?*

**Justice Burke:** Perhaps my children could answer this question far better than I can. However, let me just say that working and having children is a balancing act. Children have an impact on your attitude and mood, which affects your temperament toward them and toward work. The opposite is also true – work can have an impact on your temperament toward your children.

For me, children have been a part of my focus my entire life – as a teacher and as a coach – but never more important than as a mother. Every day of

Women are perfect for  
the law in so many  
ways. They are  
nurturing, inquisitive,  
creative, have  
common sense, and  
are capable of  
prioritizing what  
is important while  
maintaining a sense of  
humor.

Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice  
Anne M. Burke



## Congratulations to DEANE B. BROWN

CHICAGO DAILY LAW BULLETIN AND CHICAGO LAWYER'S  
Top 50 Women in Law Honoree

Hughes Socol Piers Resnick & Dym, Ltd. congratulates Shareholder Deane B. Brown on this well-earned honor, based on her leadership, mentorship and success in the legal community. An accomplished lawyer for 30 years with a reputation as a tenacious, strategic and skilled advocate for her clients, Deane represents executives and employees in all areas of employment law. We are proud of Deane's contributions to her clients and to the legal profession.



**70 W. MADISON STREET, SUITE 4000,  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602**  
[HSPLEGAL.COM](http://HSPLEGAL.COM)



my children's lives I have loved them and worried about them – their health, their education, their safety, their social world, their marriages, and, of course, their children – my nine grandchildren. I think of and worry about them in all that I do. Cases I read cause me to reflect on their lives and how their world is impacted by societal changes – environment, safety, educational and financial well-being, and the future.

Besides the worrying, I think about the time lost – the events missed, and not being available to help out or babysit at times when work takes priority. I know all parents and grandparents experience pressures because of their jobs, and other factors, and that contributes to feelings of regret over missed opportunities at times. What I try to do is to fill in the gaps in other ways as best I can.

Perhaps my most compelling worry for my children is my concern about the pressures they have balancing work and family. They are amazing parents. They focus on family first, spending time together and taking every occasion to enjoy the moment. They also make sure to set aside some special time for each child. I am grateful that they are such loving and caring parents. I am very blessed and proud of my children – all five of them.

**Jennifer:** *What hobbies do you enjoy and why is it important to have them in your life?*

**Justice Burke:** The activities I enjoy today are far different from the activities I participated in over the years. I was always athletic, so when I was younger, I enjoyed all types of sports, as well as art, dancing, and baton twirling. These were at the top of the list of things I enjoyed in my off hours. They were

even part of my working hours when I was a physical education teacher. Then, I had the perfect world –doing activities I loved as my job.

Today, I still enjoy sports, but the activities have changed over time. Now, I walk – each morning I walk a mile on a treadmill. I also do other exercises, such as climbing four flights of stairs six or seven times every day. I also enjoy painting and have taken a sculpting class. These activities I do for my personal enjoyment. They are my retreat and permit me to be challenged in a personal way – to walk faster or longer, or to create a painting or sculpture I actually like.

I also love to visit museums and to read mystery stories. I have been fortunate to be able to travel the world to meet and see the people and places I have read about.

My hobbies and activities have been a comfort and have offered me the opportunity to appreciate my good fortune in having a wonderful family and a blessed life.

**Jennifer:** *What personal skill or trait do you have that helps the court work together?*

**Justice Burke:** I have always believed that the foundation of my ability to work with others comes from the lessons I learned from being a member of a team, as well as my experiences as a teacher, a coach, and a supervisor at work.

The formula I learned is to, first, listen to the individuals with whom you will be working; hear everyone's thoughts and views on the topic or task at hand. Next, identify all the elements of the issue or problem—the pros and cons. Then create a plan, prioritizing the tasks, and have the team members choose which tasks to work on.

# SCHILLER DUCANTO & FLECK

The Future of Family Law Since 1981

Congratulations to our Partner

**MICHELE M. JOCHNER**

**Top 50 Most Influential  
Women in Law**

*by Law Bulletin Media*

CHICAGO | LAKE FOREST | WHEATON  
[sdflaw.com](http://sdflaw.com)



This formula, which I learned on the sports field, the basketball court, and from my dance teams, served me well then and still is my starting point when I need to understand an issue, task, or problem. I find, too, that regardless of the individual interests of the group members, this method helps build consensus and allows everyone to work together as a team.

**CL:** *With the pandemic, lawyers and judges are trying to navigate a whole new frontier. What advice do you have for women in the profession on how to remain relevant, successful, and still maintain a balance at home?*

**Justice Burke:** I believe we should all look at the pandemic as having presented us with the “challenge we did not want, but the challenge we needed.” I say this because the pandemic has opened our eyes and allowed us to see that our justice system has been lumbering along, with us being stagnant in many ways.

This is partly due to the structure of the justice system in Illinois. There are 102 counties, 24 judicial circuits and 5 judicial districts. Each of the 102 counties has its courts, its own clerk of the court, its own sheriff, and its own administrators. According to our State Constitution: “General administrative and supervisory authority over all courts is vested in the Supreme Court and shall be exercised by the Chief Justice in accordance with its rules.” But as a practical matter, what does this actually mean? The answer is difficult to quantify.

With the pandemic, however, the Illinois Supreme Court, based on the general authority of this Constitutional provision, convened the Leadership COVID-19 Task Force. From the first day of the pandemic in this State, we

called together all justice stakeholders and justice partners to join with us on a ZOOM call to talk about the issues facing the justice system in Illinois and what steps needed to be taken to reach our goal of ensuring that access to justice remained available at all levels – trial courts, the Appellate Courts and the Supreme Court.

Today, as I write this answer, I can honestly say we have succeeded in this goal. Under the leadership of the Supreme Court, numerous meetings have been convened with the COVID Task Force, the Conference of Chief Judges, and the Supreme Court’s Committees on Mental Health and Juvenile Justice. In addition, there have been a myriad of Webinars, Summits, and Training Programs regarding the use of technology in fulfilling our Constitutional duty to provide access to justice for all. I am very pleased to be able to say that, throughout our State justice system, courts have embraced technology, holding remote status calls, hearings, and trials, as well as, utilizing e-filings and electronic signature capabilities.

With regard to women in the law, I believe the pandemic has actually offered new and greater opportunities for success. For several years now, the number of women attending law school had been equal to or greater than the number of male law students. (In my own family there are three women lawyers and the men don’t stand a chance when the three of us get together!) And yet, too often, women were under pressure to put their careers ahead of their personal life and their families in order to be successful. The pandemic has opened up new possibilities for working from home and tailoring work schedules to meet our needs.



Valentine Austriaco  
& Bueschel congratulates

# AUORA AUSTRIACO





I believe we should all look at the pandemic as having presented us with the “challenge we did not want, but the challenge we needed.” I say this because the pandemic has opened our eyes and allowed us to see that our justice system has been lumbering along, with us being stagnant in many ways.

Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice  
Anne M. Burke

*Patricia C. Bobb &  
Associates and  
Meyers & Flowers  
congratulates  
Patricia C. Bobb  
on being named a  
2020 Salute! Women  
in Law honoree.*







Women are perfect for the law in so many ways. They are nurturing, inquisitive, creative, have common sense, and are capable of prioritizing what is important while maintaining a sense of humor. Young women today are far more able to discern their own skills and needs and apply them in their personal and professional lives. They also have more freedom to make choices, without society causing them to second guess their decisions – whether to marry or have a partner, whether to have children, or whether to take a particular job or position. In some ways, the pandemic has expanded that freedom.

*Sarah Burke is the director of Corporate and Foundation Giving at Northwestern Memorial Healthcare. She was previously Northwestern Memorial Healthcare's Director of External Affairs. Sarah graduated from DePaul University College of Law.*

*Jennifer A. Burke is a lawyer with KBC Law Group. A graduate of Chicago-Kent College of Law, she is an adjunct professor at UIC John Marshall and Loyola University.*

# ONE FIRM WORLDWIDE®

Jones Day congratulates our own **Bethany Biesenthal** on being named to the inaugural Salute! Women in Law Awards list recognizing Chicago's top legal community leaders.



2500 LAWYERS. 42 LOCATIONS. 5 CONTINENTS. ONE FIRM WORLDWIDE®. JONESDAY.COM



## Maggie Hickey

PARTNER  
**SCHIFF HARDIN LLP**  
DePaul University College of Law

*“Maggie is incredibly selfless and she is a leader among all women attorneys nationally — not just in Chicago.”*

**M**aggie Hickey is a partner with the national law firm Schiff Hardin LLP, where she leads the White Collar Defense and Government Investigations Practice Group and serves as deputy leader of the Litigation and Dispute Resolution Practice Group. In 2019, Maggie was appointed as the independent monitor to oversee implementation of the multi-year consent decree for the Chicago Police Department. She was tapped in 2018 by the Board of Education of the City of Chicago to lead an independent review of the school district's policies and procedures following the *Chicago Tribune's* investigation that revealed cases where students were sexually abused by Chicago Public School employees. That same year, after several sexual harassment complaints emerged involving the Illinois House of Representatives, Maggie was handpicked by multiple state representatives to investigate sexual harassment within all departments of the Speaker's office.

Maggie joined Schiff after a notable career in public service. In 2015, she was appointed Executive Inspector General for the Agencies of the

Illinois Governor, an independent executive branch state agency that ensures accountability across state government, nine state public universities, and four Chicago-area regional transportation boards. During her tenure, Maggie was chair of the Illinois Health Care Fraud Elimination Task Force, a comprehensive effort to prevent and eliminate health care fraud, waste, and abuse in state-administered health care programs.

Born and raised in Chicago's Near South Side, Maggie is dedicated to giving back to her community. For many years, she served as chair and board member of the now-defunct Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago, which provided thousands of elementary and secondary students with much-needed civic education. Maggie is also a Circle Member of the Oak Park Infant Welfare Society, which provides quality medical, dental, and social services to children unable to afford private care. For eight years, Maggie also served on the board of directors for the Mikva Challenge Foundation, which strives to advance civic education, engagement, and empowerment among Chicago students.



# Laura Hoey

MANAGING PARTNER  
ROPES & GRAY LLP  
Yale Law School



*“Laura Hoey is a role model for women who has made an indelible imprint on the legal industry.”*

Laura Hoey is the office managing partner of the Chicago office and co-leader of the health care and life sciences industry group at Ropes & Gray. She is also a former co-leader of the government enforcement/white collar criminal defense group.

Laura is highly regarded for running major investigations and for her ability to distill complicated facts. Her career highlights include securing unique and exceptional victories for leading global health care and pharmacy enterprises, as well as individuals and Fortune 500 companies based in the Midwest.

She has also built an accomplished practice that includes high-stakes domestic and international investigations spanning numerous countries and involving various government and regulatory compliance matters.

Laura currently represents a major pharmaceutical company in an investigation by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York focused on alleged violations of the federal False Claims Act. She also currently represents a private equity company in a multiyear investigation by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Florida and in a related *qui tam* lawsuit relating to alleged False Claims Act violations. Her recent matters include defending a major pharmacy

company in a case alleging common-law fraud and violations of several states' consumer protection statutes, as well as representing a prominent Arkansas businessman in a federal public corruption case and preparing him for trial defense against charges of conspiracy and honest services wire fraud.

In her capacity as office managing partner, Laura promotes inclusive practices by recruiting a diverse pool of attorneys and providing mentorship and career sponsorship to women lawyers. Laura is an active member and former co-chair of Ropes & Gray's Women's Forum, which focuses on the development and advancement of female lawyers at the firm. She is also actively involved with trade organizations such as the Women's White Collar Defense Association.

Under Laura's leadership, the Chicago office has expanded its outreach in the local community, including hosting legal clinics in the Chicago office to provide *pro bono* record sealing and expungement to people with criminal records to help them remove barriers to employment. Laura is also on the Criminal Justice Act (CJA) Panel of the Office of the Federal Defender. CJA Panel members provide *pro bono* representation to individuals in criminal cases who cannot afford to retain counsel.





## Kristen Hudson

COUNSEL  
**THE BENSON FIRM PLLC**  
University of Illinois at Chicago,  
John Marshall Law School

*“Kristen Hudson is not only a top-notch commercial litigator, but is also a cheerleader and role model for women in the profession.”*

**K**risten E. Hudson concentrates her practice in complex commercial litigation and insurance issues both as coverage and monitoring counsel on behalf of commercial insurers. Licensed in Illinois, Texas, and in federal courts and arbitral forums across the U.S., she manages risk and handles complex commercial litigation in a variety of substantive legal areas, including contract disputes, business torts, fraud and the protection of trade secrets, privacy, and intellectual property rights. Kristen has extensive experience in lawyer professional liability, having served as general counsel of a mid-size firm. Kristen works with a variety of commercial insurance products, including directors' and officers' liability, professional liability, employment practices liability, commercial general liability, and cyber liability policies.

Kristen is recognized as a leader in the legal community. In 2019 she was chosen as a *Crain's Chicago Business* "Notable Gen X Leaders in Law," which is a select group of accomplished attorneys between the ages of 40 and 55 who hold senior leadership positions within the firm, serve as role models or mentors to other attorneys and are leaders outside of their law firms in professional organizations and community service initiatives.

She was also elected to the Fellows of the American Bar Foundation,

a global honorary society of attorneys, judges, law faculty and legal scholars whose public and private careers have demonstrated outstanding dedication to the highest principles of the legal profession and the welfare of their communities. In 2018, she was named as a *Crain's* "Notable Women Lawyer," and she received the Coalition of Women's Initiatives in Law's Inspiration Award. *Super Lawyers Magazine* identified her as a Top 50 Women Lawyers in Illinois in 2020 and 2017 and a Top 100 Lawyer in Illinois in 2020. She received the CBA Alliance for Women 2016 Alta May Hulett Award, which is awarded to females who have significantly contributed to the advancement of women in the legal profession and whose careers exemplify the highest level of professional achievement, ethics, and excellence. And in 2014 was named one of 40 *Illinois Attorneys Under Forty to Watch* by Law Bulletin Media.

Kristen is an adjunct professor at UIC John Marshall Law School where she teaches Counseling and Negotiation, International Dispute Resolution, and Alternative Dispute Resolution. She is also co-coach of the school's award-winning William C. Vis International Moot Arbitration team. She serves on the Advisory Board of Chicago Volunteer Legal Services, a not-for-profit providing free legal services to Chicagoland's working poor.



# Precious S. Jacobs-Perry

PARTNER  
**JENNER & BLOCK LLP**  
*University of Illinois College of Law*



“Precious is litigator who zealously advocates for her clients, regardless of whether the matter is billable or pro bono.”

Precious S. Jacobs-Perry is a partner in the Litigation Department of Jenner & Block LLP. Precious primarily represents clients in class action, complex commercial and bankruptcy litigation matters. Precious also counsels clients on a variety of legal issues related to data privacy.

Precious has significant experience in a variety of forums, including in state and federal courts across the country in cases involving complex contractual disputes in a variety of industries, including energy, education, insurance, retail, construction services, and financial services.

Precious has assisted in obtaining significant victories for clients and has served as an integral member of key litigation teams that have been able to successfully defend or settle several complex matters over the years, including successfully defending against multi-million dollar class actions filed in state and federal courts in Illinois. She also counsels clients on a number of data privacy related issues, specifically in the use of physical security measures to protect highly confidential and proprietary information. In addition to her diverse litigation and counseling experience, Precious maintains an active pro bono practice. She has assisted her pro bono clients with respect to defending against first-degree murder charges, overturning a void regulation utilized by the Illinois Department of Child and Family Services, and obtaining a

settlement against a former employer who violated various human and gender rights laws.

A rising leader in the legal and Chicago community, Precious is currently a fellow in Leadership Greater Chicago. She was selected as a 2018 fellow for the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity Fellows Program. She has also received the Chicago Scholars' 35 Under 35 Award, the National Bar Association's Young Lawyer's Division's Humanitarian Award, the NYU Academic Achievement Program's Alumni Trailblazer Award and the Family Defense Center's Major Litigation Award. Precious was also recognized by *Crain's* as one of Chicago's Notable Women Lawyers. Prior to joining Jenner and Block, Precious completed a PILI Fellowship at the Chancery Advice Desk for pro se litigants through the Greater Chicago Legal Clinic.

Precious received her JD, *magna cum laude*, from the University of Illinois College of Law, where she also received two Rickert Awards for Excellence in Advocacy and Service. She also received her Bachelor of Science undergraduate degree, *cum laude*, from New York University.

Precious serves as a member of the firm's Diversity and Inclusion Committee and as a Co-Chair of the firm's African American Affinity Group and Mother's Circle. She is also a member of the Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, Inc.



## Michele Jochner

PARTNER  
**SCHILLER DUCANTO AND FLECK LLP**  
DePaul University College of Law

“*Few women attorneys have the sphere and breadth of influence as does Michele Jochner.*”

Throughout her career, Michele M. Jochner has led the way in advancing the ideals of mentoring and leadership throughout our legal community. Whether chairing boards and committees, penning hundreds of legal articles offering practical advice to colleagues or serving as a one-on-one mentor and role model to law students and new attorneys, Michele has “paid it forward” to help others achieve their very best.

As a partner at Schiller DuCanto and Fleck LLP, Michele handles complex, high-stakes marital dissolution matters in the Illinois courts of review. Prior to entering private practice, Michele served for more than 15 years as a Judicial Law Clerk to two Justices of the Illinois Supreme Court who were trailblazers in their own right: the late Hon. Mary Ann G. McMorro and the late Hon. Charles E. Freeman.

Known for her legal scholarship, Michele has authored more than 200 articles, with her writings appearing in publications nationwide. She has also lectured at several dozen seminars across the state of Illinois, with a significant portion of this work focusing on instructing colleagues in effective appellate advocacy, legal writing and application of Illinois Supreme Court Rules. She has been recognized by her peers in family appellate law, ranked in the *Top 100 Women Consumer Lawyers in Illinois* and profiled in the 2016 Consumer Edition of *Leading Lawyers* magazine. In addition, Michele has earned recognition by *Super Lawyers* and *The Best Lawyers in America*, and is listed in Lawdragon’s “500 Leading Family Lawyers.” In 2015, the Women’s Bar Association of Illinois

honored her with its Top Women Lawyers in Leadership Award; she was also recognized as one of 2013’s “Women Making an Impact” by *Chicago Lawyer* magazine for her mentoring work.

A well-known leader in her profession, Michele is the Chair of the Illinois Supreme Court’s Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) Board, and just completed her two-year tenure as Chair of the DePaul University College of Law Dean’s Advisory Council after previously being honored with the DePaul University College of Law Outstanding Service to the Profession Award. Michele also currently serves as a member of the Boards of Directors of Scribes – The American Society of Legal Writers, as well as the Center for Conflict Resolution (CCR).

Michele is a past member of the Board of Governors of the Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA), and has served on the ISBA Family Law Section Council, was a co-editor of the ISBA Bench & Bar newsletter, served on the Editorial Board of the *Illinois Bar Journal* and was an elected member of the ISBA Assembly. She is also a past-member of the Board of Managers of the Chicago Bar Association (CBA), as well as a former Chair of the CBA’s Committee on Public Affairs, and a past member of its Executive Committee of the Alliance for Women and the Editorial Board of the *CBA Record*. In addition, Michele served on the Board of Directors of the Women’s Bar Association of Illinois (WBAI), and was an Adjunct Professor at both DePaul University College of Law and The John Marshall Law School, through which she educated and mentored the next generation of Illinois attorneys.





# Elizabeth A. Kaveny

.....

TRIAL ATTORNEY  
**KAVENY + KROLL TRIAL LAWYERS**  
Case Western Reserve  
University Law School



“*Fearless, resourceful, brilliant and compassionate, Elizabeth contributed a note of personal grace to every case she handled.*”

Elizabeth A. Kaveny is a Chicago trial attorney who has achieved great success in plaintiff's personal injury and medical malpractice for the past 25 years. She is well known and respected in the legal community for her hard work and for the outstanding recoveries obtained for her clients, both in settlements and in jury verdicts. In 2019, Beth formed Kaveny + Kroll Trial Lawyers ([www.kavenyroll.com](http://www.kavenyroll.com)) in Chicago, where she serves as the Managing Partner. Her team consists of talented partners, associates and professionals from a wide variety of backgrounds to work together in order to achieve client success. In this role, Beth and her team continue their high quality representation for victims of medical negligence, motor vehicle and trucking accidents, workplace injuries and general personal injury.

Beth is proud to have been recognized by various organizations as one of the ten Best Personal Injury Attorneys in Illinois in 2020, Illinois Lawyer of the Year in the field of Medical Malpractice, and one of the top five Women Attorneys in her field for each of the past five years. Elizabeth has been accepted into one of the country's most prestigious national organizations, the American College of Trial Lawyers, and last year became a barrister with the International Society of Barristers. In

2019, Beth was named to the MOVE OVER Task Force, by John J. Cullerton, Senate President for the State of Illinois. The Task Force is made up of the Illinois Secretary of State, Secretary of Transportation and a select group of city and state leaders. The Task force is designed to enforce and strengthen laws protecting first responders on the roadways.

Beth is an often-requested teacher and lecturer on trial advocacy, having taught at Northwestern University's School of Law, Loyola University School of Law, the National Institute of Trial Advocacy and lectured for numerous bar associations and organizations in their continuing legal education programs throughout the country.

Kaveny is now serving as Chicago's Ambassador to The Patient Safety Movement ([www.patientsafetymovement.org](http://www.patientsafetymovement.org)), a national organization of hospitals, physicians and other professionals who share the mission of focusing to eliminate preventable harm and death in healthcare across the world by creating a sense of urgency and unifying humanity.

Beth received her J.D. *cum laude* at Case Western Reserve University Law School. She was admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court of the Northern District of Illinois, the U.S. Court of Appeals, 7th Circuit and the State of Illinois Bar Association.



## Sarah F. King

PARTNER  
CLIFFORD LAW OFFICES  
DePaul University College of Law

*“Sarah has two significant characteristics that make her an exceptional lawyer: creativity and confidence.”*

Sarah F. King, partner at Clifford Law Offices, focuses her practice on medical negligence of health care professionals. She works tirelessly to investigate and prepare complex medical malpractice cases to achieve justice for those who have been harmed by medical negligence. She works with a dedication and tenacity to get to the bottom of what actually happened and what proper practices should have been used to prevent injuries related to medical care. It is this passion that makes her one of today's top Chicago medical malpractice lawyers.

Sarah has had substantial trial experience as an attorney of record in many of the firm's trials. In less than a decade, Sarah F. King has received verdicts and settlements totaling more than \$300 million. In 2019, Sarah obtained a record \$101 million verdict on behalf of a baby boy who was brain damaged at birth when his external fetal monitoring strips were ignored for six hours. Experts on behalf of the plaintiff testified that he would have been born a normal baby if hospital nurses and other medical personnel would have alerted doctors to the abnormalities and performed an emergency C-section.

Sarah, along with partner Bradley Cosgrove, tried a case that gained international attention for the negligent prescription of Yasmin. A 37-year-old woman took the medication for less than two weeks and suffered a debilitating stroke. Following a two-week trial, the jury awarded her \$13.55 million in March 2014. Sarah also tried a case alongside

partner Keith A. Hebeisen, leader of the medical malpractice team at Clifford Law Offices, in November 2013 that involved the wrongful death of a 33-year-old mother who sustained a massive hemorrhage during a C-section. Following a three-week trial, the jury returned a verdict of \$15.55 million for the family. In January 2013, Sarah tried another case with Hebeisen and obtained a \$2.225 million verdict for the wrongful death of a 31-week fetus. She is hard working and unafraid to take the case to verdict.

Sarah co-founded the Illinois Trial Lawyers' Association Women's Caucus whose goal is to encourage female leadership within the profession and act as a resource for mentoring young female trial attorneys. As vice-chair, Sarah organized its first community service project, preparing meals for residents of a Chicago area women's shelter. Sarah serves on the Women's Bar Association of Illinois Board of Directors and is a Co-Chair of its Judicial Evaluation Committee. Sarah is President for Women Everywhere, a nonprofit organization comprised of attorneys and judges dedicated to creating opportunities for women through education and community service. For years, Sarah has aided in increasing funding for scholarships to senior high school girls aspiring to pursue legal careers. In 2017, she was named one of *Crain's Custom Media's* Most Influential Women in Law in Chicago. She has published several articles, some of which have been published in national publications such as the highly regarded American Bar Association *Litigation Journal*.



# Erica Kirkwood

.....

**VICE PRESIDENT AND  
GENERAL COUNSEL  
GMA CONSTRUCTION GROUP**  
*Michigan University Thomas Cooley  
Law School*



*“Approachable, knowledgeable and engaging qualities that make her an ideal mentor for young lawyers seeking to advance in this profession.”*

**E**rica Kirkwood is Vice President and General Counsel at GMA Construction Group. GMA is a veteran and minority owned, national, commercial general contracting firm that focuses on building facilities in the healthcare, education and affordable housing industries. Erica provides legal and business counsel on business development, real estate development, mergers & acquisitions, corporate transactions, contracts, litigation, HR, risk management and compliance. Erica negotiates notable multi-million dollar construction contracts and joint venture agreements like the Pullman National Monument, Cook County Hospital Harrison Square project, Terminal A expansion at Midway Airport, the 95M Chicago Police and Fire Training Facility, Dolton Public Library, University of Chicago Student Wellness center and the Northwestern University Blackhouse project. She is leading legal and business development efforts to expand GMA's operations to East Africa. In 2019 and 2020 Erica and her CEO met with real estate developers, government officials and African ambassadors in Kenya and Ethiopia. Erica also coordinates summer internships at GMA for high school and college students from disadvantaged communities.

Prior to GMA, Erica was Deputy General Counsel of the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services. Before DCFS, her career included consumer fraud investigations for the City of Chicago Department of Business Affairs & Consumer Protection, and Kirkwood Law Group, Inc., where she handled a broad range of commercial litigation.

In 2018, Erica served as President of the Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, Inc., a 300-member bar association of attorneys, judges and law students. Through BWLA, Erica established

the first annual Black Women Lawyers Judicial Reception, the first free Illinois public directory of black women attorneys and she founded The Directors Institute. This institute focuses on increasing the presence of female attorneys of color on the boards of government entities, nonprofits, and private and publicly traded companies. The Directors Institute faculty includes prominent corporate and government board directors and board recruiters from across the nation. The program has successfully graduated 25 attorneys and over 30% of them have obtained meaningful board positions.

Erica is passionate about philanthropy and works to promote diversity efforts through various community organizations like the Black Women Lawyers Association Scholarship Fund Board, Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, Chicago State University Alumni Board, and Jack & Jill Incorporated.

Erica has received the following notable awards: 2020 *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin* & *Chicago Lawyer* 40 under Forty Illinois Attorneys to Watch, 2020 *Crain's Chicago Business* Notable Women in Construction & Design, 2020 National Black Lawyers Top 100 Black Attorneys in Illinois, 2019 *Crain's Chicago Business* Notable General Counsel, 2019 Diversity MBA Top 100 under 50 Executives and the 2018 National Bar Association 40 under 40 Nation's Best Advocate. Erica is a 2018 Chicago Urban League IMPACT Leadership Program Fellow, a program in conjunction with the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. She earned a B.S. *cum laude* in Criminal Justice at Chicago State University. She received a J.D. from Western Michigan University Thomas Cooley Law School. Erica lives in Chicago with her husband J.L. and son Braxton.





## Andrea S. Kramer

PARTNER  
**MCDERMOTT WILL & EMERY**  
Northwestern University School of Law

“A thought leader on eliminating gender bias and fostering gender diversity.”

Andrea Kramer has vigorously worked to remove discriminatory barriers to women's career advancement for over 30 years. Despite her successful and demanding legal practice, Andie has helped thousands of women navigate both obvious and subtle gender-based obstacles to successful careers. Her keen insights into the nature and operation of gender bias and her pragmatic techniques for avoiding or overcoming these obstacles have made her a nationally recognized authority on gender discrimination, the nature and operation of stereotypes and biases, and practices and policies to increase women's leadership opportunities. However, Andie believes strongly that gender is not the entire story. She has also focused her efforts on other workplace issues that hold women back in the workplace, including racial and ethnic biases, age biases, LGBTQ biases, and biases against mothers.

Andie is a partner in the international law firm of McDermott Will & Emery, where she was the founding chair of her firm's Gender Diversity Committee and served on both her firm's Management Committee and Compensation Committee.

She has a sophisticated and unique multi-disciplinary legal practice that covers all aspects of financial transactions and derivatives, focusing on taxation, regulation, contract design, trading operations, and documentation. She helps clients resolve difficult legal situations, including federal and state regulatory matters, adversarial proceedings, and tax

planning and compliance issues. Since the early 1980s, Andie has helped shape legislative and regulatory policies with respect to derivative products and markets. In December 2011, Andie provided testimony on "Tax Reform and the Tax Treatment of Financial Products" in a historic joint hearing of the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee.

Andie was named one of the 50 Most Influential Women Lawyers in America by the *National Law Journal* for her "demonstrated power to change the legal landscape, shape public affairs, launch industries, and do big things." She also received the Founders Award from the Chicago Bar Association, the Women with Vision Award from the Women's Bar Association of Illinois, the Inspiration Award from the Coalition of Women in Law Initiatives, and was named the 2014 Gender Diversity Private Practice Lawyer of the Year by ChambersUSA for her outstanding contributions to furthering the advancement of women in law.

Andie is the co-author, with her husband, Al Harris, of *Breaking Through Bias (Second Edition): Communication Techniques for Women to Succeed at Work* (September 2020) and *It's Not You It's the Workplace, Women's Conflicts at Work and the Bias that Built It* (August 2019). She is also a co-author of the American Bar Association's guide "What You Need to Know About Negotiating Compensation." She has written hundreds of articles and blog posts and she is a Forbes.com contributor.



# Mary Meg McCarthy

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
**NATIONAL IMMIGRANT  
JUSTICE CENTER**

*Loyola University Chicago  
School of Law*



“*Her lovely manner, humble nature, and sharp intellect make her a much sought-after mentor.*”

**M**ary Meg McCarthy is the Executive Director of the National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC), one of the nation's preeminent immigrant and human rights advocacy organizations. Under Mary Meg's leadership, NIJC has developed a unique approach: integrating advocacy, impact litigation, legal counsel and public education, to make NIJC an effective advocate resource for lawyers, legislators and lay leaders. NIJC's contributions to national and international analysis, debate regarding reform of immigration law, policy, and practices is well-known throughout the advocacy world and beyond. Under her leadership, Mary Meg's has grown NIJC from a \$1M to a \$12.4M organization with nearly 125 attorneys, paralegals and professionals with five offices in three states and Washington, DC. Mary Meg's has built a network of 2,200 pro bono attorneys, who are essential to providing legal counsel to thousands of low-income immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers each year.

A nationally and internationally recognized immigration law expert, Mary Meg's has testified before Congress and at the United Nations, and is frequently quoted in major news outlets, including MSNBC, *The New York Times*, and the *Chicago Tribune*. An active member of the

American Bar Association, Mary Meg's chaired its Commission on Immigration. She is a member of The Chicago Network, the American Immigration Lawyers Association, and the Chicago Bar Association.

Mary Meg's has presented at the Strategic Litigation for Change Conference in Belfast and, in 2017, delivered the commencement address at Loyola University of Chicago School of Law. She currently serves as a trustee for the Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, IL.

Earlier in her career, Mary Meg's worked in communities throughout Chile as a Holy Cross Associate to help safeguard the rights of individuals under a dictatorship. She received her bachelor of business administration in finance from the University of Notre Dame and her doctor of law from Loyola University Chicago School of Law. She has been honored with several awards, including: the American Constitution Society Chicago Lawyer Chapter Ruth Goldman Award, the Elmer Gertz Award for Human Rights from the Illinois State Bar Association, the Chicago Inn of Court 2015 Don Hubert Public Service Award, the Pax Christi 2013 Teacher of Peace Award, and the Damen Award from Loyola University, an honorary law degree from Knox College (Galesburg, IL), and the Notre Dame Alumni Association's Thomas A. Dooley Award (2020).

MIRAE LAW, LLC CONGRATULATES

# JANE H. PARK

ON BEING A 2020 SALUTE! WOMEN IN LAW HONOREE



## CHICAGO HEADQUARTERS

1701 Golf Road, Suite 1-1106  
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008

## NEW YORK OFFICE

104 West 40th St. Suite 400  
New York, NY 10018

## NEW JERSEY OFFICE

400 Kelby St, Suite 1802  
Fort Lee, NJ 07024



**gould + ratner**

# CONGRATULATIONS AMY BLUMENTHAL



Managing Partner of  
Gould & Ratner

Immediate Past President  
of CREW Chicago

Director, Erie Family  
Health Foundation

We are honored to recognize Amy as a business leader in Chicago and applaud her dedication to the advancement of women in real estate, the legal profession and our community.

Complex World. Practical Solutions.®

[www.gouldratner.com](http://www.gouldratner.com)

Member of LawExchange International



**HUSCH BLACKWELL**

## Making a difference.

Husch Blackwell is proud to salute our Chicago Office Managing Partner Julie Miceli. We congratulate Julie and all of the 2020 *Salute!* honorees for their work to mentor and promote other women in the profession, their success in the legal community, and their shining example of leadership.



**Julie Miceli**  
Office Managing Partner  
Chicago

[huschblackwell.com](http://huschblackwell.com)

120 South Riverside Plaza, Chicago, IL 60606  
312.655.1500

The choice of a lawyer is an important decision and should not be based solely upon advertisements.



## Fiona McEntee

FOUNDING AND MANAGING  
ATTORNEY

**MCENTEE LAW GROUP**

Chicago-Kent College of Law

*“Fiona is a relentless advocate for immigrant rights.”*

**F**iona McEntee is a nationally recognized award-winning immigration lawyer and the Founding and Managing Attorney of McEntee Law Group.

Fiona first moved to Chicago from Dublin, Ireland, back in 2002, as an international exchange student at DePaul University's College of Law. Having fallen in love with Chicago, she returned to study at Chicago-Kent College of Law, where she received her Juris Doctor in 2007.

Fiona and her team of passionate advocates represent individuals and families, as well as the world's leading musicians, artists, athletes, innovative entrepreneurs, and multinational and U.S. companies. They counsel their clients on the ever-changing immigration policies and help them achieve the American Dream.

Fiona is the Chair of the Media and Advocacy Committee for the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), a bar association of over 15,000 immigration lawyers. As a national spokesperson for AILA, Fiona is regularly tapped for her immigration thought-leadership by major media outlets including MSNBC, BBC, CNN.com, *The New York Times*, Politico, *Chicago Tribune*, Irish Central, *Irish Times*, & RTÉ.

Fiona has won many awards and honors including the ISBA Elmer

Gertz Award for Human Rights; 2020 & 2019 Illinois Super Lawyers List, Immigration; Chicago Women of Influence 2019; and, the Irish Legal Top 100. In 2019, Fiona was inducted into the Irish American Hall of Fame in the Irish American Heritage Center.

Fiona has particular expertise and experience on the extraordinary O-1 visa and EB-1 green card. She regularly presents on these options including leading panel discussions at various AILA Conferences. She also counsels other immigration attorneys about leveraging the media to fiercely advocate for clients.

Fiona has recently published her first book — *Our American Dream* — an award-winning children's book on immigration. As a mom of two young children, an immigrant, and an immigration lawyer who fights for justice every day, Fiona wrote *Our American Dream* to explain the importance of a diverse and welcoming America.

Along with her colleague and friend, Carolina Solano, Fiona has just launched a weekly podcast — *Immigration Revelation*. Each episode of *Immigration Revelation* introduces you to an amazing immigrant with an eye-opening inspirational immigration journey. You can find out more and hear episodes on [immigrationrevelation.co](http://immigrationrevelation.co)



# Shannon McNulty

.....

ATTORNEY  
**CLIFFORD LAW OFFICES**  
*DePaul University College of Law*



“*Shannon is considered one of the finest lawyers in the trial bar.*”

**S**hannon M. McNulty, partner at Clifford Law Offices, heads the mass torts/class action practice area at the firm. She often leads such litigation nationally, serving as co-lead counsel, liaison counsel or key committee positions for discovery and trial. Shannon presently serves as co-lead counsel in the Cook County Johnson & Johnson talcum powder litigation and also in the Cook County DePuy hip litigation. She also serves as liaison counsel in several matters pending in various state and federal courts, and recently led the Pella Proline Windows litigation to a successful conclusion of a \$34.75 million settlement. In the Cook County talcum powder litigation, McNulty prevented the defendants’ removal of dozens of cases from the victims’ home forum, a litigation history subsequently relied on by hundreds of women who suffered ovarian cancer. Recently, she was named one of the five Lead Counsel in the only multi-district litigation involving Covid-19 business interruption claims.

Her successes in Chicago as a personal injury and wrongful death attorney include the multiple death and severe personal injury cases of those who were trapped in the fire at the Cook County Administration Building in October 2003. The high-profile cases dealt with the workings of the 911 response system in Chicago, something with which Shannon has a great deal of experience through her earlier work in the administration of the Chicago Police Department where she served as the Director of Administration in the Bureau of Operational Services. In this

critical role, she was Chief of Staff to the First Deputy Superintendent. She is part of the legal team that handles cases involving the rollover of a number of sport utility vehicles that have resulted in the deaths or serious injuries of their occupants. Shannon also was involved in the trial of a small plane crash case at a Chicago suburban airport that killed everyone aboard. That trial resulted in a \$12 million verdict.

Shannon attended night law school at DePaul while working full-time and completed law school one year ahead of schedule. She holds a Masters of Science degree from the School of Management of Public Services at DePaul University, which bestowed upon her the American Society of Public Administrators’ Student of the Year Award. She graduated cum laude from Loyola University in Chicago with a Bachelor of Science degree. She has been named a Leading Lawyer, a Super Lawyer and a Best Lawyer.

Shannon gives back to the Chicago community having worked in the Albany Park neighborhood on crime prevention efforts, which resulted in her being recognized for outstanding service by the U.N.I.T.E. civic organization. She has worked with several associations of public housing residents throughout the city for the purpose of organizing and fulfilling the needs of children, including school supplies, holiday meals and gifts as well as mentoring opportunities with police command staff. She served as a founding Board Member of the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation that raises money for protective vests for officers.





## Kim Metrick

VICE PRESIDENT  
**WALGREEN COMPANY**  
*Chicago-Kent College of Law*

“*A longtime advocate of diversity within the legal industry.*”

**K**im Metrick is Vice President, Employment Law, Legal Operations and Investigations for the Walgreen Company, the nation's largest drugstore chain with more than 8,000 pharmacies across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Kim began her career with Walgreens in 1995 as a senior attorney. She has held various management positions throughout her career with Walgreens. In her current role, Kim is responsible for leading a team of employment law and employee benefit attorneys and legal staff professionals engaged in a broad based national employment and accessibility law practice.

Together they work with business leaders and human resources to support employment and benefits decisions that reduce risk and drive business objectives. Kim also oversees the legal operations function at Walgreens. Prior to joining Walgreens, Kim

was an associate with the law firm of Ross and Hardies (now McGuire Woods). Kim holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and a *juris doctorate* degree from Chicago-Kent College of Law. Kim is a frequent speaker on employment law topics and is active in various community service organizations. A longtime advocate of diversity, equity and inclusion within the legal industry, she is a past President of the Coalition of Women's Initiatives in Law and her work to advance women's initiatives was recognized by *Best Lawyers* magazine where she was awarded a Woman of Influence award in 2017. She was also the 2018 recipient of the Women's Bar Foundation Rise Up and Reach Back award for her contributions to the legal profession and efforts to advance women's initiatives in law. Kim serves on the University of Michigan, Political Science Advisory Board and the Posse Foundation Chicago Advisory Board.



## Julie Miceli

HIGHER EDUCATION ATTORNEY  
**HUSCH BLACKWELL**  
*Ohio State University  
Moritz College of Law*



“Julie is a true pioneer for not just women in the law, but each and every attorney in the firm.”

Julie Miceli is a Higher Education Attorney with Husch Blackwell, an industry-focused law firm with offices in 21 locations from coast to coast. She also serves as Managing Partner of the firm's Chicago office, a collaborative team assisting clients across sectors including education, intellectual property and intellectual property litigation, commercial litigation and financial services.

Julie's practice is dedicated to serving private and public institutions of higher education including major research institutions, academic medical centers, religiously affiliated institutions, regional universities, private colleges, nursing and allied health schools, community colleges, proprietary schools and publicly traded school groups. Julie has concentrated experience advising colleges and universities on legal issues related to campus safety, including Title IX, the Clery Act, serving minors and emergency planning and response; financial aid, including Title IV compliance, loan servicing and collections; as well as development matters, including fundraising, major gifts and permissible use of charitable contributions. She also provides legal counsel and litigation related to faculty tenure, student conduct, disability accommodations and employment issues, among other complex matters.

In addition, Julie has advised institutions on issues involving free expression and academic freedom, student privacy, contracts and public/

private partnerships. Julie also focuses on emerging legislative, regulatory and policy initiatives at the state and federal levels impacting institutions of higher education, and provides risk management support to institutions through the development and review of institutional policies, procedures and practices.

Julie is a regular speaker and author on frequently asked client questions in the highly regulated sector of education. She frequently shares insights and host events regarding Department of Education regulations, reporting requirements, student finance, labor and employment matters, Title IX considerations, CARES Act and COVID-19 on campus, risk mitigation and fostering diversity, among other topics critical to educational leaders.

Before joining Husch Blackwell, Julie served as the deputy general counsel for higher education and federal student aid at the U.S. Department of Education, and prior to that, as the chief of staff and special counsel to the general counsel for that agency. Most recently, Ms. Miceli served as associate general counsel at Northwestern University, a major research institution in Evanston, Illinois. Julie has previously practiced as an education associate at a mid-sized Chicago law firm, and started her practice as an assistant attorney general in the Education Section of the Ohio Attorney General's Office.



## Britt Miller

MANAGING PARTNER  
**MAYER BROWN**  
Northwestern University School of Law

“Britt has been a powerhouse since joining Mayer Brown’s Litigation & Dispute Resolution practice.”

**B**ritt Miller is Managing Partner of Mayer Brown’s more than 350-lawyer Chicago office, where she practices in the areas of antitrust litigation and complex commercial litigation. She is also a co-leader of the global Antitrust & Competition practice. Britt focuses on representing domestic and international corporations in price-fixing, market allocation, monopolization, and conspiracy cases, and has also counseled clients on general antitrust issues.

Since joining Mayer Brown in 1998, Britt has been involved in numerous antitrust cases including *In re Vitamins Antitrust Litigation*, one of the largest antitrust cases ever filed in the US. Her antitrust work has involved a variety of products and industries, including computer hardware/software, insurance, food products, synthetic rubber, aspartame, resins, household moving services, consumer health products, industrial chemicals, paper products, financial services, fertilizers and vitamins.

Britt’s litigation experience spans both the federal and state court systems and includes client representations relating to contract disputes, constitutional rights, securities fraud, banking practices, airline deregulation, products liability and trust interpretation. She has led multi-lawyer litigation teams on high-profile matters, including representing Delta Dental Plans Association in a multi-district class action accusing the association and its member companies of violating antitrust laws; CDK Global in a series of antitrust class and individual actions alleging anticompetitive practices in the automotive technology space;

and The Big Ten Conference in a litigation against the NCAA and several conferences related to compensation to student-athletes.

Britt’s pro bono work includes securing innovative rulings that reunited two Brazilian migrant mothers with their children after being separated due to the Trump administration’s border policy.

Britt is a member of the American Bar Association’s Section of Antitrust Law and the Section of Litigation, as well as a member and former president of the Lyric Opera of Chicago Guild Board, a Trustee of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, a member of the Chicago Botanical Gardens Guild Board, a member of Rush University’s Medical Center Associates Board, and a member of both The Economic Club of Chicago and The Chicago Network. In 2019, Britt was named to *Crain’s Chicago Business’* “Notable Gen X Leaders in Law” list and named by the Anti-Defamation League as a “Women of Achievement Award” honoree for her efforts to improve communication and understanding among the diverse racial, religious and ethnic communities of Chicago. Britt additionally has been named a BTI “Client Service All-Star” and a “Rising Star” in the Antitrust Litigation sections of the *Illinois Super Lawyers* list published by *Law & Politics* for the past six years and as a “Future Star” by Benchmark Litigation for the past five years. In the 2014-2019 editions of *Expert Guides: Women in Business Law*, Britt was recognized as an expert in the field of “Competition & Antitrust,” and she has been named one of *The National Law Journal’s* “40 Under 40” in Chicago.





# Katherine Minarik

.....

**VICE PRESIDENT OF LEGAL AND  
DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL  
COINBASE**  
*University of Pennsylvania Law School*



*“Katherine is openly committed to changing the legal profession to make it more inclusive for women and to level the playing field.”*

**K**atherine Minarik is Vice President of Legal and Deputy General Counsel of Coinbase, the world's leading digital currency company. At Coinbase, Katherine leads the team responsible for all litigation and disputes, including the company's most sensitive matters. Katherine is also co-founder and co-host of the legal podcast Heels of Justice, which tells the story of trailblazing women lawyers.

Katherine came to Coinbase from Dyson where she was General Counsel for Dyson Americas. Katherine led the Dyson legal function for the western hemisphere and sat on the Dyson Americas leadership team. Before Dyson, Katherine was the Chief Administrative Officer and Global General Counsel at cleverbridge, one of the world's leading e-commerce solutions companies. Katherine was the first female executive in cleverbridge's history, and she managed the legal and compliance functions in addition to human resources and information security. Katherine was also previously an equity partner and trial lawyer at Bartlit Beck, where she represented Fortune 500 companies and startups on their most pressing legal matters and successfully resolved multiple billion-dollar-plus disputes.

Katherine serves on the board of directors of ChIPs, a global network for women lawyers in tech, and co-created the ChIPs Next Gen summit, now in its fourth year, for rising stars in the profession. Katherine is a

past-President of the Coalition for Women's Initiatives in Law, where she led the expansion of the Coalition to become a national organization. Katherine was one of the lead lawyers who served at O'Hare International Airport during the heat of the 2017 travel bans. Katherine is also the co-founder of the first law school clinic dedicated to reproductive rights law, the Penn Law Reproductive Justice Clinic.

Katherine is an elected member of the American Law Institute and a Fellow of the American Bar Association. In 2018, Katherine received the Ruth Goldman Award from the American Constitution Society for her work on behalf of women in the legal profession and the advancement of women's issues through the law.

Katherine was also named a Best Lawyers' Women of Influence and one of *Crain's* Most Influential Women Lawyers in Chicago in 2017, one of the Women's Bar Association of Illinois's Top Women Lawyers in Leadership in 2016, and one of the *Law Bulletin's* "40 Under 40" Illinois attorneys in 2014. Katherine is a founding member of the US Soccer Development Council, a former McKinsey consultant and former law clerk for the Honorable Diane P. Wood on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

Katherine and her husband Rob have a seven-year-old daughter, Lois, and a slightly older dog, Dunkel.

Congratulations to our Partner  
**Susan J. Schwartz**  
on being selected to the inaugural  
**Women in Law**



Susan has been shattering ceilings – glass and otherwise – since 1980  
*and*  
makes her Corboy & Demetrio family proud every day!

**CORBOY & DEMETRIO**  
Trial Lawyers

33 N. Dearborn Street, 21st Floor | Chicago, IL 60602 | [corboydemetrio.com](http://corboydemetrio.com)



**Margaret Battersby Black**  
*Levin & Perconti*  
2020 Honoree



**Nicole Wrigley Benesch**  
2020 Honoree

# Proud to Salute Women Leaders in Law



**Advisors to the next generation of Chicago law firm leadership**  
**[www.page2comm.com](http://www.page2comm.com)**



**Patricia Brown Holmes**  
*Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila*  
Women's Advisory Committee



**Margo Wolf O'Donnell Benesch**  
Women's Advisory Committee





## Linda Myers

PARTNER  
**KIRKLAND & ELLIS**  
Georgetown University Law Center

“Linda has worked tirelessly to promote inclusion of females within the legal profession.”

Linda Myers is a corporate partner at international law firm Kirkland & Ellis LLP where she was a member of Kirkland's Global Management Committee from 2010 to 2020 and has three decades of experience advising clients. A senior partner and one of the original members of the Firm's Debt Finance Practice Group, she focuses her work on transactions for private equity groups, commercial lending institutions and major private and public companies. Linda is ranked by Chambers Global and Chambers USA as one of a very exclusive group of "Eminent Practitioners" nationwide.

Linda's practice serves private equity sponsors and companies in connection with leveraged buyout financings for acquisitions, as well as working capital facilities, CP backup facilities, refinancings and other commercial banking matters. She also represents lenders in distressed transactions and in acquisition financing and refinancing opportunities. In the restructuring arena, Linda predominantly counsels debtors looking for financing to navigate through and exit bankruptcy.

In 2018, *The Legal 500* inducted Linda into its Hall of Fame in Finance and Commercial Lending. This honor highlights law firm partners "at the pinnacle of the profession" who "have received constant praise by their clients for continued excellence." In 2020 and 2018, the IFLR1000 Women Leaders guide named Linda as one of the 300 female lawyers ranked as the best transactional practitioners in their markets and practice areas. In 2020, Linda was named to *Lawdragon's* list of the "500 Leading Lawyers in America." Also in 2020, Linda received the St. Ignatius College Prep 39th Annual Law Society Award for Excellence in the

Field of Law.

Excelling at both law and deal management, Linda assembles and manages top-notch legal teams, gathers resources, supervises work streams, and fosters relationships for the firm. With a style that's communicative, inclusive, flexible, direct and extremely efficient, Linda relates to people from all backgrounds and believes that building bridges – including with those on the opposing side – tends to lead to more satisfactory outcomes for her clients.

Included by *Crain's Chicago Business* in the "Who's Who in Chicago Business" in 2016 and 2017, selected as a "Notable Gen X Leader in Law" in 2019, named one of "The Most Powerful Women in Business" in 2018 and "The Most Influential Women Lawyers in Chicago" in 2017, Linda enthusiastically supports marquee cultural and educational organizations. For example, she serves on the boards of the Lyric Opera of Chicago and The Chicago Shakespeare Theater and has done pro bono work for both organizations. Linda sits on the board of St. Ignatius College Prep and is a member of the Parents Council to the Chancellor at Washington University in St. Louis. In addition, Linda serves on the Advisory Board of Kinzie Capital Partners, a women-founded private equity fund based in Chicago. She also serves as a member of the Board of Directors for Gibraltar Industries (NASDAQ: ROCK) and the National Philanthropic Trust.

Linda earned her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center and her B.A. in Economics and International Relations from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



## Nancy E. Paridy

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER +  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT  
**SHIRLEY RYAN ABILITYLAB**  
*Chicago-Kent College of Law*



*“Nancy’s optimism is infectious and her knowledge is expansive.”*

**N**ancy Paridy, JD, LLM, is an executive who brings diverse experience and insights to her multifaceted role. For more than 25 years, Nancy has served Shirley Ryan AbilityLab, the global leader in physical medicine and rehabilitation for adults and children with the most severe, complex conditions. A 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, Shirley Ryan AbilityLab has been named the #1 rehabilitation hospital by *U.S. News & World Report* every year since 1991. Upon the opening of its state-of-the-art hospital in 2017, Shirley Ryan AbilityLab became the first-ever “translational” research hospital in which clinicians, scientists, innovators and technologists work together in the same space, surrounding patients, discovering new approaches and applying (or “translating”) research real time.

As a member of Shirley Ryan AbilityLab’s executive leadership team, Nancy serves as Senior Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer and General Counsel overseeing a diverse team of more than 300 employees. She is responsible for all legal matters, including health care matters; employment law; joint venture; acquisition; management and other transactional agreements; regulatory interpretation and guidance; intellectual property; litigation; and corporate governance.

She oversees and directs the organization’s human resources function (e.g., talent acquisition, leadership and succession planning, total rewards, HRIS), developing new initiatives — including a robust employee engagement program and a facilities and support services apprenticeship program that opens up new career pathways for team members. She also leads the hospital’s food service department — which prepares more than 3,500 meals per day for patients, staff and visitors — and its

facilities department — which recently was honored for its commitment to environmental action with two prestigious national awards.

Additionally, Nancy serves as Corporate Secretary to all of Shirley Ryan AbilityLab’s corporate entities and also is responsible for the hospital’s ethics program; corporate compliance; security operations; insurance needs; and government and community affairs.

Nancy’s leadership in healthcare and law has been honored through myriad awards. In 2018, she received the Top Women Lawyers in Leadership Award from the Women’s Bar Association of Illinois. This honor recognizes elite women lawyers who have created growth in their field and fostered new pathways through mentoring. In addition, she received the First Chair Award for “Top General Counsel” in its inaugural year, 2011, and again in 2016.

In addition to her work at Shirley Ryan AbilityLab, Nancy writes and lectures about healthcare law, and serves as an adjunct professor at the Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law. Furthermore, in 2019 she was named the first woman Chair of the Loyola Academy Board of Trustees.

Nancy joined Shirley Ryan AbilityLab (formerly the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago) in 1995 as Associate General Counsel. Previously, she was a Partner at Dykema and practiced law at Nixon Peabody LLP in the areas of litigation and corporate healthcare.

She earned her BA in History from Western Illinois University, her JD from Chicago-Kent College of Law at Illinois Institute of Technology, and her Master of Laws (LLM) in Health Law from the Loyola University School of Law.



## Jane Park

FOUNDER AND SENIOR  
MANAGING ATTORNEY  
**MIRAE LAW LLC**  
Chicago Kent College of Law

“Jane was recognized by the Korean government for leading the effort to help Korean venture companies expand their businesses.”

Jane Park is the founder and senior managing attorney of Mirae Law LLC, a Chicago-based law firm. Mirae Law LLC focuses on representing companies and their executives on corporate matters, contract negotiation, due diligence, contract disputes, employment and immigration issues.

Her clients are located in China, Korea, Canada and throughout the U.S., and range from one of Korea's top 10 companies to small businesses. Jane is frequently retained by Korean companies as an outside corporate legal counsel to oversee complex contract negotiations and disputes here in the U.S. Her clients appreciate Jane's efficient, creative and effective problem-solving skills.

While Jane is known to be an aggressive negotiator, she understands that not all matters require a scorched earth approach. Jane's ability to recognize this and quickly tailor her approach to each case is what

makes her successful.

Jane is actively engaged in servicing the needs of the underprivileged community through the Rotary One Club of Chicago. She previously served as the president of the Rotary Club of Chicagoland Korean – Northbrook. She also currently heads the Chicago Chapter of both International Network of Korean Entrepreneurs (INKE) and Korean Women's International Network (KOWIN) as the president for both organizations.

Jane received her J.D. from Chicago Kent College of Law with a Certificate in Labor and Employment Law in 2002. She participated and received a certificate in an intensive negotiation workshop provided by the Harvard Law School in 2015. Jane was born and raised in Seoul, Korea until age 11 when she immigrated to Chicago, the city she calls her home. She enjoys golfing, skiing, running, playing classical piano, and attending concerts.





# Rebekah H. Parker

PARTNER  
**NOVACK AND MACEY LLP**  
Harvard Law School



“*Rebekah’s leadership, expertise and legal acumen are invaluable to our clients and our law firm.*”

**R**ebekah H. Parker is a partner at Novack and Macey LLP, a sophisticated business litigation boutique in Chicago, where she has practiced for over 11 years. Prior to joining Novack and Macey, she worked at a well-known litigation firm located in both California and New York, where she is also licensed to practice law.

Rebekah focuses her practice in real estate-related litigation, including landlord-tenant and construction disputes. She also represents clients across many industries in disputes involving intellectual property, professional malpractice, class action defense, and breach of contract cases. She has experience with both jury and bench trials, arbitration, and is adept in counseling her clients with strategies to achieve their objectives in the most effective and efficient manner possible. Clients rely on her counsel to develop pretrial resolution strategies and practical techniques to avoid litigation altogether. Further, clients have praised Rebekah for being a “strong litigator” and note that she is a “excellent problem solver and comes up with ideas for new arguments to make or ways to create settlement leverage.”

In 2020, Rebekah was named an Illinois “Leading Lawyer” by Law Bul-

letin Media, and in 2019 she was named to Law Bulletin Media’s “40 Under Forty Attorneys in Illinois to Watch” list. In addition, Rebekah has been perennially recognized by *Illinois Super Lawyers* as a “Rising Star” since 2013.

Rebekah is co-chair of Novack and Macey’s Women’s Initiative, a group dedicated to the professional development and advancement of the firm’s female attorneys. She is also co-chair of the firm’s pro bono practice where she does extensive work representing students in due process proceedings. Rebekah is a Board member of the Next Generation as well as the Lawyers’ Committee, both of which support the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. She is a member of the Harvard Law School Women’s Alliance of Chicago and the Chicago Council of Lawyers, a public interest bar association.

In her free time, Rebekah is an avid runner, tennis player and skier. She lives in Glencoe with her husband and two children.

Rebekah received her B.A. (2002) with honors from the University of Michigan. She received her J.D. (2005) *cum laude* from Harvard Law School.



## Kristen Prinz

FOUNDER AND MANAGING PARTNER  
**THE PRINZ LAW FIRM**  
IIT Chicago Kent College of Law

*“Kristen somehow manages to be both a fierce litigator and a heart-centered leader.”*

**K**rysten Prinz is an employment lawyer, business counselor, and founder of The Prinz Law Firm.

Kristen represents business owners, senior executives, lawyers, and physicians in matters ranging from employment agreements and non-competes to complex employment disputes. She is passionate about advocating for her clients' interests and helping them achieve outcomes consistent with their professional goals. Kristen provides clients with innovative and cost-effective solutions to their legal and operational problems, enabling them to fully realize their potential. She has leveraged her litigation and culture management experience to guide clients in implementing employment best practices, effectively training staff, and creating a productive workplace culture.

Kristen has litigated employment law matters before state and federal courts at the trial and appellate level; administrative agencies including the EEOC, the Illinois Department of Human Rights and the Cook County Human Rights Commission; and numerous arbitration panels. She has obtained a multi-million dollar verdict for a client on defamation and retaliatory discharge claims.

Kristen has had numerous successes drafting, enforcing and defeating restrictive covenants in Illinois. Her appellate experience includes helping to advance the law related to non-competition agreements in Illinois by successfully arguing a case before the Third District Appellate Court, defeating a mandatory arbitration provision in the Second District, and successfully protecting a retaliation claim before the Second District. Kristen also successfully limited the applicability of a general release of claims in an employee's background check on ap-

peal in Indiana.

Kristen has developed a workplace training practice focused on educating businesses and employees on ensuring compliance and creating healthy workplaces. She regularly speaks to business owners, associations, and professionals on topics including workplace policies, workplace culture, harassment and discrimination, and diversity and inclusion. Part of this work includes serving as a mentor to women in the legal profession and counseling professional women on negotiating employment agreements, equity agreements, and restrictive covenants.

In 2020, Kristen assisted businesses through the COVID-19 outbreak on such issues as furloughs, compensation adjustments, work leaves, navigating unemployment insurance claims, and returning employees to payroll. She has helped businesses comply with their harassment training requirements while also focusing on keeping employees safe and engaged throughout the global pandemic.

Kristen is a member of the Economic Club of Chicago, the Chicago Bar Association, the Illinois Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and the National Employment Lawyers Association. She is President-Elect of The International Women's Forum, Chicago Chapter and serves on the board of the National Sleep Foundation.

Kristen was selected for inclusion in *Crain's Chicago Business' List of 50 Most Influential Female Attorneys*, and has been named a Leading Lawyer by *Leading Lawyers*, as well as a Super Lawyer for 2020. Kristen received her J.D. with honors from IIT Chicago Kent College of Law and a B.A. in English from the University of Iowa.



# The Hon. Lorna Propes

JUDGE  
CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY  
*Loyola University School of Law*



“Lorna has paved the way for so many women,  
first as a trial attorney and now as a judge.”

Judge Lorna Propes has served on the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, since 2010, and presently sits in the court's law division. Judge Propes is a graduate of Indiana University and Loyola University School of Law. She began her career as a prosecutor in the Cook County State's Attorney's office where she served for five years, and became one of the first women in Illinois history to handle major felony cases. She entered private practice in 1980, specializing in the representation of persons injured by the negligence of others. Uniquely, Judge Propes also represented major corporations in high stakes mass tort and class action product liability cases. Over her three decades in both public service and private practice, Propes participated in nearly than 100 jury trials, earned *Chicago Magazine's* acclaim as one of Chicago's "30 Toughest Lawyers," and has been named one of Chicago's pre-eminent trial lawyers by numerous publications.

Judge Propes has served for 35 years as a faculty member of the National Institute of Trial Advocacy, and has earned the organization's Faculty Award for outstanding service. She is a published expert and lecturer on trial advocacy and the use of technology in the courtroom, and was featured in *Your Witness, Lessons on Cross-Examination from Great Trial Lawyers* published in 2008.

For 18 years Judge Propes served as a member of the Illinois Racing Board. Appointed by four governors, she served as chairman from 2001 through 2005. She is a member of the Chicago Bar Association and a Fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers.

Recently, Judge Propes has received the Law Bulletin Media's Lifetime Achievement Award, the Chicago Inn of Court Joel Flaum Award, ABOTA's Judge of the Year award and the Chicago Bar Association's Abraham Lincoln Marovitz Philanthropic Award.



HPS SALUTES

# Marilee Clausing

Recognized among Chicago's  
top Women in Law

"In the courtroom, Marilee is calm, she's firm, she doesn't get rattled, and she just has this demeanor of being in charge.

She's always prepared, and has this deep understanding of the medicine and the issues. If I were ever in trouble and needed a lawyer, I would want Marilee."

—Sherri Arrigo, Partner  
*Donohue Brown Mathewson & Smyth*

"Marilee has mastered it all: she's an expert in the law; she's an excellent trial lawyer; and she excels at business development. On top of all that, she's a born leader—it's like she was made to be Managing Partner."

—David C. Hall, Partner  
*Hall Prangle + Schoonveld*

"Marilee is an invaluable mentor who taught me how important it is for women to be experts in our craft and in our field, and to come to every meeting prepared to lead."

—Elizabeth Connolly, General Counsel  
and Executive Vice President  
*Sinai Health System*

**hps**  
HALL PRANGLE+  
SCHOONVELD<sup>LLC</sup>

[hpslaw.com](http://hpslaw.com)

ILLINOIS | CALIFORNIA | COLORADO | FLORIDA | NEVADA | UTAH



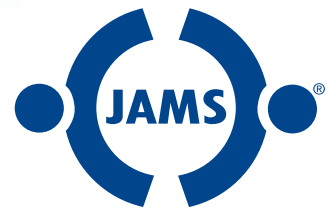


# CHOOSE DIVERSE

Smart businesses know that diversity produces better ideas. We believe the same is true in ADR. Choosing diverse neutrals yields creative solutions and gives everyone a seat at the table.

JAMS is a longtime leader in promoting diversity in ADR. But we can't do it alone. We invite you to partner with us by considering diverse neutrals, reviewing selection reports, and adding our **Diversity and Inclusion Arbitration Clause** to your contracts.

Learn more at [jamsadr.com/diversity](https://jamsadr.com/diversity).



Local Solutions.  
Global Reach.™





## Sammi L. Renken

VICE PRESIDENT AND  
EQUITY SHAREHOLDER  
**JOHNSON & BELL, LTD.**  
*University of Texas School of Law*

*“Sammi Renken has been at the forefront of women in law issues.”*

Sammi L. Renken is an experienced trial lawyer practicing in the areas of medical malpractice and business litigation. Based on a broad jury trial background, Sammi provides solutions and results for her client's most challenging cases. Her practice has included representation and trials involving malpractice and medical actions, commercial and business disputes, nursing home litigation, drug and medical device lawsuits, Medicare and Medicaid audits, fraud claims and attorney malpractice litigation. She has also represented various professionals in licensure matters before the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. She has also served as outside “inside” counsel for healthcare facilities in the Chicagoland area offering advice on risk management, compliance, and pre-suit claim investigation. She has successfully litigated cases in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Circuit Court of Will County, Circuit Court of Kane County, and the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, as well as numerous venues in Southern Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin.

Sammi completed her law degree at The University of Texas School of Law graduating in 1999. During law school, she served as an intern for the Texas Supreme Court. She initially practiced in Winston-Salem, North Carolina working in the area of plaintiff's personal injury litigation before moving to Chicago in 2001. She joined Johnson & Bell, Ltd., in 2001, and continues to happily practice law with some of the most loyal, creative, and bright partners in the business. She has had the good fortune to work with some of the most talented attorneys in the city in this firm which was created by her mentors, William Johnson and John

Bell. Sammi currently serves as a Vice President and Equity Shareholder at Johnson & Bell, Ltd. She is also on the Board of Directors and management committee at the firm.

Since 1999, when she served as President of the Women's Law Caucus while earning her JD at the University of Texas School of Law, Sammi has been at the forefront of women in law issues. She leads the firm's Women's Initiative and is a former board member of the Chicago Coalition of Women's Initiatives in Law. In 2021, Sammi will become the President of the Illinois Healthcare Risk Management Society and previously served as President of the Chicagoland Healthcare Risk Management Society. In 2010, she was honored by Law Bulletin Media as one of its “Forty Illinois Attorneys Under Forty to Watch.” Always a trailblazer, Sammi was one of the women lead trial attorneys profiled by the *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin* in its article, “Firm celebrates wins by women in first chair job.” Her successful trial record has resulted in being invited to join the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) in 2016 and The Society of Trial Lawyers in 2018. In 2017, she also was welcomed into the fellowship of the Trial Lawyer Honorary Society of the Litigation Counsel of America. Previously, Sammi also served on the Board of Trustees for Marillac St. Vincent Family Services, a non-profit organization that strengthens and empowers children and families. Most recently, Sammi was recognized as a 2020 Women in Law Inaugural Honoree by the *Chicago Lawyer* and *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin* publications.

Sammi resides in Chicago with her husband of 21 years, Judd Renken, and their daughter Jacqueline.





# Meredith Ritchie

.....

**VP, GENERAL COUNSEL AND  
CHIEF ETHICS & GOVERNMENT  
AFFAIRS OFFICER  
ALLIANT CREDIT UNION  
DePaul College of Law**



“Meredith worked to develop innovative programming that reached hundreds of in-house women about how to succeed and rise in the legal profession.”

**M**eredith Ritchie, a Chicago native, graduated from Hamilton College in Clinton, New York and obtained her JD from DePaul College of Law in Chicago.

Meredith has had a diverse legal career in Chicago starting out in private practice where she litigated tort actions. A large portion of her litigation included defending a Fortune 100 petroleum company.

Meredith served as an Assistant State's Attorney for Cook County, Illinois in both the civil and criminal divisions. She then took her experience to the State of Illinois where she contributed to the Illinois Department of Public Aid and then served as Deputy General Counsel to the Department of Central Management Services.

Meredith then served as in-house counsel for Accenture, an international technology consulting firm.

Currently, Meredith is VP, General Counsel and Chief Ethics & Government Affairs Officer for Alliant Credit Union, a \$12 billion dollar financial

cooperative, in Chicago, Illinois. There, she oversees the Legal Department, the Ethics Program and is a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Meredith is known for bringing pragmatic and creative business and legal solutions to her clients. Her consultative approach, coupled with her energy, positivity and thorough knowledge of the law, enable her to add value to the management team of her organization. Meredith enjoys leading her diverse team and helping them realize and maximize their potential.

Meredith chaired the Standing Committee on Women and the Law of the Illinois State Bar Association as well as the Young Lawyers Division. She served on the Board of Managers of the Chicago Bar Association. Currently, Meredith is on the Board of Directors of the Coalition of Women's Initiatives in Law, the Board of Directors of the Alliant Credit Union Foundation and is Co-Chair of the Governance Sub-committee of the American Bar Association Credit Union Committee.



## Stephanie A. Scharf

PARTNER  
**SCHARF BANKS MARMOR, LLC**  
University of Chicago Law School

“One of the nation’s leading lawyers for advancing women in the law.”

Stephanie A. Scharf is founding partner of Scharf Banks Marmor, LLC, a prominent women-owned law firm that represents local, national and global businesses. Specializing in complex litigation, Stephanie has tried and won multiple jury and bench trials in federal and state courts, has spearheaded the pre-trial, trial and appellate phases of litigation, and has overseen the resolution of multiple commercial disputes and complex tort actions.

Stephanie and the Firm have been profiled for the “unique quality of their work” and for “Work at a Very High Level.” A frequent author and CLE speaker, Stephanie created and is the lead editor of *PLI’s Product Liability Litigation: Current Law, Strategy and Best Practices*. She has been named a Leading Lawyer, Best Lawyer, and Super Lawyer, was granted the PLAC President’s Award, and was selected by Lawdragon Magazine as one of the “500 Leading Litigators in America.” She is “AV Preeminent” peer review rated by Martindale-Hubbell.

In addition to her law practice, Stephanie is a Founding Principal of The Red Bee Group, LLC, [www.theredbeegroup.com](http://www.theredbeegroup.com), a consulting firm that helps businesses, organizations and law firms achieve their goals for growth and innovation using data-based strategies with diverse and inclusive solutions.

Stephanie received a Ph.D. in Behavioral Sciences with a focus on social and organizational psychology as well as statistical analysis of large data sets. Before practicing law, she managed large national data-based initiatives in the areas of health and employment.

Stephanie is one of the nation’s leading lawyers for the advancement of women in the profession. She is 2017-2020 Chair of the American Bar Association Commission on Women in the Profession. She is Chair of the ABA World Forum for Women in Law; a member of the Advisory Board of DirectWomen; a former President of the National Association of Women Lawyers (2004- 2005); and was Special Advisor to the American Bar Association’s Presidential Commission on Diversity and Inclusion.

Stephanie frequently combines her skills in data analytics to create cutting edge research on issues of diversity and inclusion. Her most recent report, with co-author Roberta Liebenberg, is *Walking Out the Door: The Fact, Figures and Future of Experienced Women in Private Practice*. Stephanie also founded and conducted the NAWL Annual Survey of Women in Law Firms (2006-2014); the National Survey of Women’s Initiatives (2012); and the first-ever survey of women as lead counsel in litigation, *First Chairs at Trial: More Women Need Seats at the Table* (2015), with co-author Roberta Liebenberg.

Stephanie has received many awards in recognition of her work for advancing women in the law including: The Women’s Bar Association of Illinois Myra Bradwell Award (2018); the National Association of Women Lawyers Public Service Award (2017); the Chicago Bar Association Alliance for Women Founder’s Award (2015); and the National Law Journal Two Steps Forward Award (2014). She was named by *Crain’s Chicago* 2017 as one of the 50 most influential women lawyers in Chicago.



# Susan J. Schwartz

PARTNER  
**CORBOY & DEMETRIO**  
Loyola University Chicago  
School of Law



*“Susan’s lawyering skills, grace, wisdom and generosity have made her a true inspiration not just to other women at our firm but all lawyers at our firm.”*

Susan J. Schwartz, a partner at Corboy & Demetrio for 25 years, is a highly accomplished trial attorney practicing in the area of medical malpractice law. Susan’s remarkable career at the firm spans 40 years, following her graduation from Loyola University Chicago School of Law in 1980. Susan’s practice centers on representing patients and their families in complex medical negligence personal injury and wrongful death actions. Among her many successes, Susan triumphed in a 17-year legal odyssey with two Illinois Supreme Court opinions resulting in a settlement she and Thomas Demetrio obtained against the Chicago Board of Education and the Chicago Youth Centers on behalf of a 13-year-old CPS student who broke his neck on a mini-trampoline.

Susan has achieved numerous multi-million dollar verdicts and settlements on behalf of her clients. She and her trial partner, medical malpractice attorney David R. Barry, Jr., secured a record-setting \$22 million verdict for the family of a Chicago woman who died during child birth. It is the largest verdict in Illinois for the death of a woman.

In 2015, Susan’s impressive work resulted in a \$14 million settlement on behalf of an 8-year-old girl, who when seven weeks old, was admitted to an Illinois hospital for bronchitis and was intubated improperly.

And in 2016, Susan and David R. Barry, Jr. obtained a jury verdict of \$10 million for a Chicago physician, who sustained an unrecognized 4th degree tear from her vagina to her rectum during forceps delivery of

her baby.

Appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to the Court’s Committee on Character and Fitness, Susan served as a Commissioner from 1999 until 2007. She is a Past President of the Board of Governors for Loyola University Chicago, School of Law, as well as a former officer and member. Susan served on the Board of Directors of the Woman’s Bar Foundation from 2010-2015. She currently serves on the Advisory Board of the Coordinated Advice & Referral Program for Legal Services (CARPLS) after previously serving on its Board of Directors from 2010-2019, including serving as the board’s secretary from 2016-2018. Susan also serves on the President’s Council of Almost Home Kids.

Susan was selected to *The Best Lawyers in America* in 2021, an honor given to only five percent of attorneys nationwide. Named one of the top five percent of all Illinois attorneys by the Leading Lawyers Network, Susan was also named one of the top 100 Leading Women Lawyers in Illinois for 2008, 2009 and 2010. Susan was chosen as one of the Top 50 Leading Women Consumer Lawyers in Illinois by the *Leading Lawyers Network* for 2012. Since 2005, she has been selected to “Illinois Super Lawyers,” and was named one of the top 50 women Illinois Super Lawyers in 2011. She has achieved the highest possible rating in the *Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory*.

In 2019 and 2020, Susan was selected to the national *Lawdragon 500 Leading Plaintiff Consumer Lawyers*.





## Eileen Sethna

PARTNER  
**LEVENFELD PEARLSTEIN**  
John Marshall Law School

“*Eileen is a leader, has a huge heart, and treats you like family.*”

From her first career in the hotel business to her current position as a partner with Levenfeld Pearlstein, Eileen Sethna is known for prioritizing the client experience and maintaining a hospitality ethos as much as her skills as a lawyer. As a rare hybrid banking and finance lawyer who can service a credit from origination to disposition, Eileen is a transactional lawyer with the training of a federal trial litigator.

Incoming chair of Levenfeld Pearlstein's Financial Services & Restructuring Group, Eileen is a champion for women in the legal profession, as well as women who are leaders in the community and charitable endeavors. She empowers women colleagues and invites women into positions of leadership whenever possible.

In her professional practice, Eileen is a trusted adviser to banks, financial institutions, hedge funds, real estate investors, and business owners. Given her experience representing both lenders and borrowers, clients lean on her vast wealth of knowledge and experience in the industry.

Eileen listens to her clients to determine a strategic approach that

will achieve their specific needs and goals. She guides them through underwriting, diligence, structuring, transactions, reorganizations, workouts, and other matters of insolvency. Often dealing with multifaceted and difficult matters, Eileen's breadth and depth of knowledge and her client-first approach has helped clients successfully navigate diverse challenges.

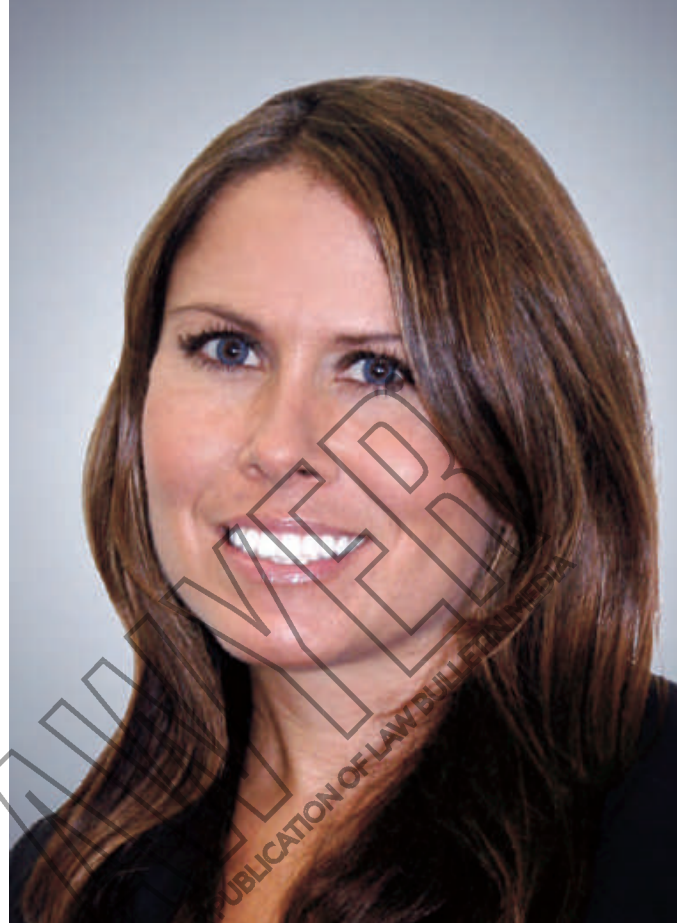
Holding tight to the belief that service is what defines true advocacy, when she's not counseling lenders or borrowers, Eileen is committed to the important missions of Misericordia, serving on its Advisory and Women's Boards, and to Special Olympics of Illinois, where she serves on the Board of Directors. Advocating for children and adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities is both her joy and privilege.

Eileen was recently recognized by Crain's Chicago Business in 2020 as one of the city's "Notable Women Lawyers," for her success in steering clients through the deluge of reorganizations and other financial matters stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as her commitment to serving the community. In 2019, Eileen was recognized by Crain's Chicago Business as a "Notable Gen X Leader in Law."



## Diane E. Webster

PARTNER-IN-CHARGE  
**HINSHAW & CULBERTSON LLP**  
New England School of Law



“Diane is a leading advocate for women and minorities.”

Diane E. Webster represents companies in complex/catastrophic litigation cases, including medical negligence, birth trauma, neonatal negligence and neurologic injuries. A seasoned litigator, she is among a select group of attorneys nationwide to consistently deliver favorable trial verdicts and results. Her clients include hospitals and physicians, insurance companies, a medical/surgical device company, state and county governments, corporations and school districts and a major league baseball organization. Her practice also includes premises liability, municipal law, and government litigation. She has also defended mass tort actions and separately class action lawsuits alleging violation of the Illinois Biometric Information Privacy Act (BIPA).

Just a dozen years after she began her legal career at Hinshaw, Webster was chosen in 2016 to lead the Chicago office. Among her notable contributions, she managed all aspects of the office move to its current location in the John Buck building at 151 North Franklin. While continuing to manage a heavy case load, she oversaw and worked with the architect on the design elements of the new space, selected all furnishings, finishes, amenities and other elements, and oversaw the relocation. Her efforts resulted in a seamless move, and the office was selected as one of the “11 Coolest Offices” in Chicago by *Crain’s Chicago Business*.

In 2012, she was named to Diversity MBA’s list of Top 100 under 50 Di-

verse Executive & Emerging Leaders. In 2013, she was named to the Top “40 Under Forty” list by *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin* and *Chicago Lawyer* magazine. And in 2017, she was named to the “Most Influential Minority Lawyers in Chicago” list by *Crain’s Chicago Business*.

A native of Chicago, Webster was among the inaugural fellows of the Leadership Counsel on Legal Diversity (LCLD) in 2011. She worked with other participants during the year-long fellowship to design and develop the initiatives of the newly established program. Today, LCLD is a national program that identifies high-potential diverse attorneys with leadership attributes and provides them with a series of structured, multi-tiered leadership and professional development programs. LCLD also offers professional networking opportunities and allows fellows the opportunity to learn from general counsels and managing partners at firms across the country.

In addition to managing the firm’s Chicago office, Webster is a leading advocate for women and minorities. Along with mentoring associates and summer associates, she is a member of Hinshaw’s Executive Committee, Hiring Committee, Attorney Life Committee, and Women Affinity Network. She is also an active member of the National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL), Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel (IADTC), Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois (HLAI), Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA), and the Association of Latino Professionals For America (ALPFA).



## Mary Wilson

MANAGING PARTNER  
**DENTONS**  
University of Chicago Law School

*“Mary embodies strong female leadership, leveraging her experiences to innovate, inspire and pay it back.”*

Dentons' first female U.S. Managing Partner, Mary Wilson is a national finance, health care law and tax-exempt organization lawyer who has served in various leadership roles during her tenure. She embodies strong female leadership, leveraging her experiences to innovate, inspire and pay it back. Mary helps lead Dentons' innovation through Golden Spike, as the first truly national law firm, while also representing borrowers, banks and underwriters in tax-exempt bond issues, loans and other finance transactions aggregating billions of dollars in principal amounts.

The great conundrum of the US legal market is that, while it is the largest legal market in the world, US law firms are disproportionately small compared to firms in other nations, both in terms of headcount and the number of communities served. Dentons launched Project Golden Spike to solve this challenge and offer clients the benefits of the first law firm providing services broadly and deeply throughout the US. Golden Spike utilizes a distinctive partnership model that enables member firms to maintain their existing partnerships or corporate structures, leadership teams, and other key attributes, meaning that they will reap all the benefits of a global firm without losing their local relationship with clients. Mary has been key in facilitating collaboration and creating processes across member firms and practice groups, including joint participation in an upcoming Summit on women, retention and success at Dentons.

In addition, Mary is an active member of Dentons' US Women's Lead-

ership and Growth Network, a women's mentorship initiative entitled Dentons Women LEAD. Women LEAD (Leadership, Entrepreneurism, Advancement, Development) is a network that plays a critical role in supporting and building the success of women in the Firm. The network's mission is to foster an environment that attracts, develops and inspires women business leaders and builds networks with our clients and the communities in which we work. Example activities include: Sponsorship program, New mother outreach programs, Business development planning programs, Networking Forums, and Women's events. Mary also helped design a new program called Dentons' Executive Mentoring program that recently launched. This program pairs Dentons US Board members with diverse associates in a 360 mentoring program to provide new opportunities for diverse associates while simultaneously sharing the views and experiences of these associates with Board members. She serves as a mentor herself in the inaugural class, showcasing her commitment to the program. She was also part of the faculty for the 2019 Dentons' Preparing for Rain Program which focuses on supporting and training women senior managing associates and new partners in the art of business development.

Furthermore, Mary is the former Chicago office managing partner and a continuing member of Dentons' US Board. She has served on the Chicago leadership board of the American Diabetes Association and the boards of KEEN Chicago and Heartland Health Outreach.





# Nicole Wrigley

.....

VICE CHAIR, TRIAL PRACTICE GROUP  
**BENESCH**  
*University of Illinois College of Law*



“*Giving back to the next generation of attorneys is critical to Nicole.*”

Nicole Wrigley has litigated some of the largest and most high-profile cases in the country. She represented the plaintiffs in the largest defamation case in U.S. history, the defendant in one of the largest auditor liability cases ever tried, and Fortune 100 companies in multi-billion dollar securities fraud claims.

Her unmatched experience in these “bet the company” cases led Benchmark Litigation to select Nicole as part of its “Under 40 Hot List” for Commercial Litigation in 2017.

Nicole’s litigation and trial practice is diverse, ranging from nine-figure business disputes to multibillion-dollar class actions to complex MDL proceedings, where she has served as national and coordinating counsel for industry-leading companies. Her subject matter expertise is likewise diverse. She has represented individuals and companies in litigation involving product liability, breach of contract, tortious interference, securities fraud, defamation and disparagement, negligence, professional liability and mass tort, and CERCLA.

The results that Nicole and her teams achieved in these cases and others not only served the best interest of her client but, on several occasions, also changed the law with precedent-setting decisions. Regardless of the stakes involved, in cases large and small, Nicole ap-

proaches litigation as a zealous and respectful advocate. Her clients have described her as “a creative and aggressive, but practical advocate” and as having “an outstanding work ethic.” She has been described by opposing counsel as having a “great presence in front of a jury.”

Nicole’s clients also seek out her expertise outside of litigation. She has counseled clients in a variety of industries on interacting with the media and crisis management. She advises companies and individuals regarding their interactions with federal regulators and responding to government inquiries, and Nicole is often sought out by her clients to assist with the development of internal strategies and procedures to avoid litigation.

An Illinois native, Nicole is committed to giving back to her community. Her pro bono practice has included class actions for prisoners in the Illinois Department of Corrections system, the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, and Chicago public school teachers. She has also represented individuals on a pro bono basis in immigration, custody, and divorce proceedings.

Nicole previously served on the Associate Board for the American Cancer Society and as a director for Seven Generations Ahead, a sustainability organization.