

# CRAIN'S 2020 NOTABLE WOMEN IN LAW

That there are 124 attorneys on this list speaks to the rising influence of women in the legal field. These lawyers represent almost every major firm and type of practice, from fundamentals such as real estate and employment law to newer fields such as cybersecurity, gaming and cannabis.

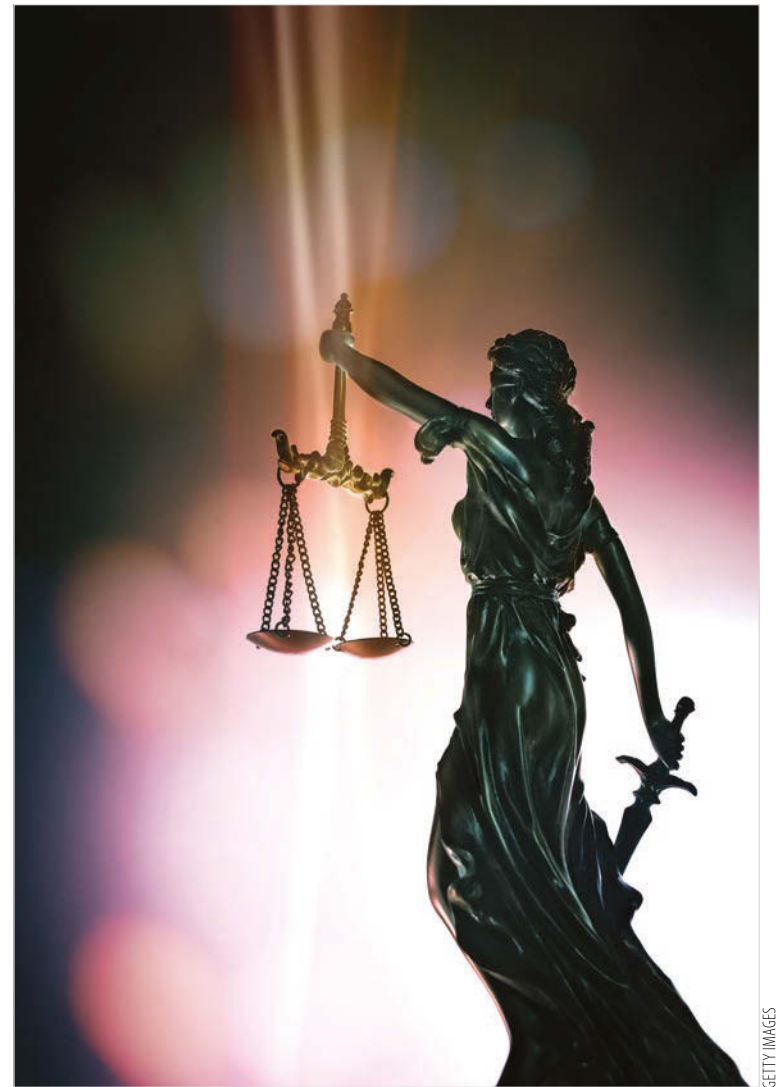
Almost all have been shaken by the pandemic but have skillfully adapted, whether by delivering an oral argument remotely or by arranging socially distanced document signings. They are advising clients on the onslaught of legal questions that have arisen: insurance

claims, staff layoffs and furloughs, amended benefits and safe office reopenings.

They are expanding the role of the women's resource group to make sure that young associates get the skills and confidence they need to succeed. And they reach beyond their firms to support young girls, law school students, asylum seekers and disabled people. With the killing of George Floyd and the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement, they are pushing their firms to do more to promote racial justice and equality.

By Judith Crown

**METHODOLOGY:** The women featured did not pay to be included. Their profiles were drawn from nomination materials submitted. This list is not comprehensive. It includes only women for whom nominations were submitted and accepted after an editorial review. To qualify for the list, the attorneys must be serving in senior-level roles at a law firm and have practiced at least 10 years. They must have shown the ability to effect change in their roles or practice areas. They serve as role models and have assumed leadership positions in professional or civic organizations.



## LISA ACEVEDO

Shareholder  
Polsinelli

At Polsinelli, Lisa Acevedo chairs the health information privacy and security group. This year, Acevedo has counseled clients



through the pandemic, guiding them on data protection issues as they moved employees to work remotely. She also is advising on

privacy requirements in testing, the use of contact tracing apps and return-to-work procedures. Earlier, Acevedo expanded the firm's health privacy work outside the U.S. to include Canada, the E.U. and Asia Pacific. She joined Polsinelli in 2013, left for a year and rejoined in 2016. Acevedo has written articles and papers on data privacy issues and has spoken on the topic at professional conferences. She's a member of the DePaul University College of Law Dean's Council advisory board and the Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois.

## MARY ROSE ALEXANDER

Partner  
Latham & Watkins

Mary Rose Alexander sets strategy as global chair of Latham's environmental litigation practice. In the past 18 months, Alexander secured a trial victory for Pennsylvania-based Consol Energy in an oil and gas industry dispute. She resolved a series of class



actions for a large private owner of timberlands. And she served as lead trial counsel defending Dow Chemical in allegations of PCE contamination and Clorox in a case involving plastics in the ocean. As global chair of Latham's Women Enriching Business Committee, Alexander leads efforts to promote women in law and business, including a one-on-one coaching program with business development coaches and a multiday financial analysis program for clients through the University of California, Berkeley. She is on the board of counselors for nonprofit Equal Justice Works.

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## JENNIFER ASHLEY

Partner  
Salvi Schostok & Pritchard

Based in Waukegan, trial lawyer Jennifer Ashley focuses on personal injury, premises liability and product liability cases. In addition, Ashley serves as an arbitrator in Lake County for municipal and small-claims matters. In the past 18 months, she has settled



57 cases. Before joining Salvi Schostok & Pritchard in 2012, Ashley was an associate at an insurance defense firm. In 2014, she became Salvi's second female partner. Through her pro bono work with Prairie State Legal Services, Ashley helped a single mother who was being evicted find a new home. She recently was named chair of the Lake County Bar Association's civil trials and appeals committee. Since 2016, she has been on the board of the Lake County Bar Foundation and is on the fundraising committee.

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## KATHRYN ASHTON

Partner  
Dentons

Kathryn Ashton serves as co-chair of Dentons' cannabis practice and is a leader of the firm's global health care group.



She lobbied for a cannabis specialty, and the group became a stand-alone practice last year. Ashton advises cannabis clients in due diligence

and regulatory reviews, risk assessments and investment transactions. She has helped Canadian companies seeking entry to the U.S. cannabis market. From 2014 to 2019, Ashton was chair of Dentons' U.S. health care practice, overseeing 50 lawyers. During that time, she closed dozens of financings. Ashton has served as a pro bono lawyer with Chicago Volunteer Legal Services, acting as guardian ad litem to represent the best interests of a child. She also represents Twist Out Cancer, a nonprofit that supports cancer survivors.

## JERALYN BARAN

Principal  
Chuhak & Tecson

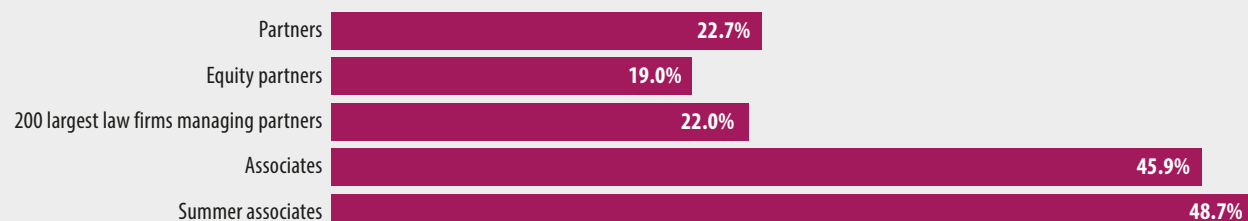
At Chuhak & Tecson, Jeralyn Baran leads the employment law practice group and publishes a newsletter, Employment Focus.



During the pandemic, she has counseled employers on stay-at-home orders, furloughs, layoffs, return-to-work orders and social distancing

requirements. She has been at Chuhak & Tecson for nearly 24 years and was named a principal in 1999. Baran has been instrumental in Chuhak's annual Women Helping Women event, which combines service and networking for female attorneys and female entrepreneurs. She has also been central to the firm's membership in the Technology & Manufacturing Association, which provides training, support and advocacy for its members. Since 2005, Baran has been an active member of the Women in TMA committee and worked to develop grant and scholarship opportunities for women.

## WOMEN IN PRIVATE PRACTICE



Source: American Bar Association's "A current glance at women in the law," April 2019

**38 percent**

of people in the legal profession in 2018 were women.

**30 percent**

of general counsels at Fortune 500 companies in 2018 were women. For firms in the Fortune 501-1,000, 23.8 percent were women.

## NOTABLE 2020 WOMEN IN LAW

### JANA COHEN BARBE

Partner  
Dentons

As leader of Dentons' tax-oriented investments practice, Jana Cohen Barbe and her team represent large financial institutions and insurance companies



in connection with their social investing and funding of affordable housing and community development. Barbe is a proponent of

changes in the legal profession to improve the mental health of lawyers. In a letter published on Law.com last year, Barbe argued that the industry needs to revamp its billable-hour structure, change performance metrics and look at compensation in a different way. She is a board member and past president of nonprofit Thresholds, which supports people living with mental illness. Barbe helped launch Dentons' women's mentorship initiative to create opportunities for younger female lawyers at the firm. She is chair of the Catalyst board of advisers.

### MARGARET BATTERSBY BLACK

Partner  
Levin & Perconti

Personal injury attorney Margaret Battersby Black is known for her work on behalf of individuals and families involving nursing



home abuse and negligence and for having secured multiple million-dollar settlements for clients. During the pandemic, she has brought

a half-dozen lawsuits involving COVID-19-related deaths of nursing home residents. Last year, Battersby Black settled the most cases in Illinois over \$500,000, with 24 settlements above that level. Battersby Black advises younger lawyers through the Women's Bar Association of Illinois' lawyer-to-lawyer mentoring program and through her alma mater, Chicago-Kent College of Law. She co-founded the women's caucus of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association and organized the first continuing legal education seminar featuring leading female lawyers. Battersby Black is on the ITLA executive committee and was elected treasurer for 2020-21.

### LAUREL BELLOWS

Managing principal  
Bellows Law Group

Managing principal Laurel Bellows counsels senior executives, private-equity firms, family businesses and corporations on employment and severance agree-



ments, internal investigations and disputes. She also advises entrepreneurs. During the pandemic, she has helped businesses survive and

adapt. Bellows particularly has supported female entrepreneurs through the Women's Business Development Center. Recently, Bellows was appointed liaison counsel in a class action against Navistar, negotiating a favorable settlement for truck owners whose vehicle engines malfunctioned. She speaks often on leadership, negotiation, supply chain, executive compensation and solutions to human trafficking. As past president of the Chicago Bar Association, Bellows founded the Alliance for Women, which works for equality of pay and opportunity in law firms. She is on the global board of the International Women's Forum and chairs its governance committee.

### BETH BERG

Partner  
Sidley Austin

The most senior female partner in Sidley's Chicago corporate group, Beth Berg advises public company boards and executives on mergers and acquisitions,



governance and disclosure, with a focus on takeover defense and shareholder activism. Last year, she led the team that represented

Georgia biotechnology firm MiMedx Group in two simultaneous proxy fights. Earlier, she represented Elaine Wynn in her highly public fight to change Wynn Resorts' board and governance practices. Other highlights include the sales of Beam, Tellabs and Keurig Green Mountain and the spinoff of NiSource's Columbia Pipeline Group. Berg led Sidley's committee on the promotion and retention of women, which set policy on maternity leave. Last year, she was appointed to a six-year term on the American Bar Association committee on corporate laws.

### CATHY A. BIRKELAND

Chicago office managing partner  
Latham & Watkins

As managing partner, Cathy A. Birkeland sets business strategy for the 185-lawyer office. She's also a partner in the firm's capital markets practice. During the



pandemic, she has helped clients structure transactions to raise capital to sustain their businesses. In April, she advised Hyatt Hotels on a \$2.9

billion bank and bond financing. She worked with underwriters in connection with the July initial public offering of Texas-based Vital Farms, a producer of pasture-raised eggs and butter. She advised underwriters in connection with IPOs of plant-based food company Beyond Meat and Chicago social media management software company Sprout Social. Birkeland also has led Latham's Chicago Taskforce for the Commitment to Racial Justice & Equality, dedicated to fighting racial injustice and promoting equality through pro bono efforts.

### GAIL BLEY

Partner  
Gould & Ratner

Gail Bley is a partner in Gould & Ratner's tax planning and compliance and estate planning and wealth-transfer practices. She's also a certified financial planner.



She counsels clients on tax and financial issues related to acquisitions, investments, mergers, strategic alliances and joint ventures.

Bley also advises entrepreneurs and family and other closely held businesses including real estate and investment partnerships. Recently, she has handled transactions focused on tax, wealth transfer and succession planning, including charitable trusts, private foundations, life insurance planning and other approaches to multigenerational wealth transfer. She has been active in Gould & Ratner Opportunities for Women, a program that helps female clients and contacts network with the firm's female attorneys. She's a member of the Chicago Estate Planning Council.

## 'How we practice law has been turned on its head'

As a young lawyer, **Jana Cohen Barbe** took a job as general counsel at *Thresholds*, a nonprofit that provides housing and support for people living with mental illness and substance-use disorders. That experience "sensitized me," Barbe says, to the toll of mental illness and the growing problems in the legal profession as evidenced by burnout, substance and alcohol abuse, and suicide. In an article on *Law.com* last year, the Dentons partner wrote that requiring lawyers to take vacation, spreading work among teams and moving away from billable-hour targets would go far toward relieving stress in the profession.

### CRAIN'S: How did you experience these stresses?

**BARBE:** As a young lawyer, there was the pressure to please the partners and the pressure to bill hours. As a partner, and a successful partner by most standards, it surprisingly (at least to me) became harder, not easier, because there was never a moment when I could take my foot off the accelerator. I don't think I have ever taken a vacation where I didn't work. On some vacations, I would wake at 4 a.m. so I could complete my work before anyone else was up.

### Technology didn't make it easier?

I love that technology enabled me to stay in contact with the office while attending my children's sporting events, but I hate that technology meant I had to stay in contact with the office while attending my children's sporting events. It stopped being volitional at some point and became expected.

### What is the precise problem with the current legal business model?

We sell ourselves by the hour, and that places undue and unhealthy emphasis on the length of time spent working rather than on the efficiency of that time. You could bid and bill on a per-project basis, or based on the size of a deal or on the results. Also, law firms ought to emphasize a team approach rather than the individual, just as accounting firms bid on an audit and submit their team. If you have a team, the world doesn't come to an end when someone takes a vacation or goes on a medical leave.

### Is there change afoot?

The impetus for change is here. COVID gave us a palpable lesson in family values and priorities, the need for greater balance. It taught us we can be productive from home. We are surviving without face time, which was always important in the legal profession and that disadvantaged women. How we practice law has been turned on its head in the past five months. I don't think there's any going back.

### What will it take for real reform?

Management has to make the leap. It will take two or three big law firms to come forward and present a transitional plan to move away from the billable hour. Once that happens, the industry will follow. And the clients will wake up and say, "Thank heavens. It's about time."

**"LAW FIRMS OUGHT TO EMPHASIZE A TEAM APPROACH RATHER THAN THE INDIVIDUAL... IF YOU HAVE A TEAM, THE WORLD DOESN'T COME TO AN END WHEN SOMEONE TAKES A VACATION OR GOES ON A MEDICAL LEAVE."**





# Congratulations to Crain's 2020 Notable Women in Law



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## NOTABLE 2020 WOMEN IN LAW

### AMY M. BLUMENTHAL

Managing partner  
Gould & Ratner

At Gould & Ratner, Amy M. Blumenthal is a managing partner and member of the management committee. She has 35 years of experience and was a longtime



chair of the real estate practice. In the past two years, Blumenthal has handled real estate matters including a national media company

needing new Chicago office space, an entrepreneurial family office investing in restaurants in the Midwest and Southeast, and a bus builder expanding its manufacturing facility in California. Blumenthal is immediate past president of CREW Chicago, an organization for women in commercial real estate. She helps lead the firm's attorney mentoring program as well as Gould & Ratner Opportunities for Women, a program that helps female clients and contacts network with the firm's female attorneys.

### CARYN BORG-BREEN

Founding partner  
Green Griffith & Borg-Breen

Intellectual property attorney Caryn Borg-Breen is a founding partner of the boutique firm. She represents plaintiffs and defendants in patent litigation



in the pharmaceutical and life sciences fields. In April, Borg-Breen helped lead the way in the virtual practice of IP litigation by becoming one

of the first attorneys to make oral arguments by telephone before the Federal Circuit Court, using the court's conference call system during its first week to argue a case. Borg-Breen launched the firm in 2015 with fellow partners from Leydig Voit & Mayer, where she worked and practiced for nearly 14 years. She helped develop a mentorship program, recruiting and retaining a diverse pool of science-focused attorneys. She has been a panelist on IP issues at law conferences.

### LEAH BRUNO

Office managing partner  
Dentons

As Chicago office managing partner, Leah Bruno sets strategic goals and local culture. She's also a partner in the litigation practice group. Recent cases



have ranged from recovering a multi-million-dollar collectible car to a merger dispute in the cannabis field. As part of her pro bono practice,

Bruno led the submission of amicus briefs in two matters before the U.S. Supreme Court on reproductive rights. In a recently decided case on abortion clinics in Louisiana, Bruno submitted a brief on behalf of 67 social scientists providing scientific research that demonstrates negative consequences of barriers to accessing reproductive health care. For three years, Bruno was co-chair of the committee that evaluates the progress of associates. She sits on the board of the Illinois chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

### PATRICIA CAIN

Partner  
Neal Gerber Eisenberg

Patricia Cain leads the employee benefits and executive compensation practice group. During the pandemic, Cain has published employee benefits updates,



explaining how employers can provide tax-free disaster relief payments to employees and how employees may access their retirement

savings this year. She recently advised a public company on a new equity-incentive plan and compliance with COVID-19 legislation and regulations. Recently, she counseled on the redesign of a compensation program and advised a pension plan on its hedge fund investments. Cain began her career when there were few female lawyers at law firms and was instrumental in establishing her firm's first maternity-leave policy. Cain was co-chair of Neal Gerber Eisenberg's Women's Network Leadership Team and currently serves as a member of the diversity and inclusion committee.

### RACHEL CANTOR

Partner  
Kirkland & Ellis

At Kirkland & Ellis, Rachel Cantor focuses on the tax aspects of complex business transactions, including mergers, acquisitions, buyouts and restructurings.



In the past 18 months, Cantor worked on more than 30 transactions with a value of more than \$15 billion. Recent clients have included

Madison Dearborn Partners, Wind Point Partners and Accel KKR. She has participated in speaking engagements covering federal tax issues at seminars and conferences, including the Tax Executives Institute, Chicago Tax Club and the Practising Law Institute. This year, she became chair of the University of Chicago Tax Conference planning committee. Cantor is a member of the committee that handles performance reviews for the firm's junior partners, and she participates in Kirkland's Women in Leadership Initiative. She's a board member of the American Jewish Council.

### SUSAN CAPRA

Partner  
Clifford Law Office

Susan Capra handles medical and hospital negligence cases. Since 2010, Capra has worked on 34 obstetrical and gynecological cases, 31 of which have resulted



in settlements and verdicts over \$1 million, and 13 that have resulted in settlements and verdicts over \$5 million. Before becoming an attorney,

Capra was a pediatric nurse at Children's Memorial Hospital, working in the neurosurgical unit and operating room. She attended DePaul University College of Law School at night and joined Clifford in 1989. She recently handled a birth trauma case that resulted in a settlement of more than \$7 million. She also worked on two gynecological negligence cases that settled for more than \$5 million. She volunteers at the Norwood Crossing Senior Living Community, the USO of Illinois and Feed My Starving Children.

### KARA CENAR

Officer  
Greensfelder Hemker & Gale

Intellectual property trial attorney Kara Cenar handles cases involving copyrights, patents and trademarks. Last year, she successfully led a multimillion-dollar



copyright infringement jury trial to verdict involving the unlicensed use of artwork and graphics for video-reel casino slot machine games—a

case that's significant for artwork creators. Cenar also has handled high-profile cases related to popular musical works, including the successful defense of two \$60 million claims involving digital music. Before joining Greensfelder in 2015, Cenar was a partner at Bryan Cave. She's a founding member of Chicago Women in Intellectual Property and a founding charter member of the Intellectual Property Institute. She's also a senior fellow of Litigation Counsel of America and has held leadership positions with the National Association of Women Business Owners.

### SUSAN CHARLES

Partner  
Troutman Pepper

Environmental partner Susan Charles advises clients on environmental due-diligence matters and structuring transactions to minimize or apportion liabilities.



She counsels clients on environmental permitting and enforcement matters. In the past 18 months, Charles has worked on

200 real estate acquisition and development projects collectively valued at more than \$1 billion. Recently, she represented an investor group bidding on a portion of a 100-year-old electric generation plant. Charles joined Troutman in 2017 from Lathrop Gage, now Lathrop GPM. She is a member of Troutman's Women's Leadership & Growth Network and co-chair of the Women in Law Empowerment Forum's Chicago market. She was a silver medalist in the 1991 Pan American Games in Havana and a gold medalist in the 1992 National Collegiate Women's Rowing Championships.

### LINDA COBERLY

Chicago managing partner  
Winston & Strawn

Linda Coberly manages Winston & Strawn's oldest and largest office, serves on the executive committee and chairs the appellate and critical motions



practice. In six months, Coberly won four appeals in four different federal courts. She led representation of the United

Network for Organ Sharing in defense of a new, beneficial policy for liver transplantation. After helping to bring Illinois' historic ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in 2018, Coberly has pivoted to the national ERA campaign. She serves as chair of the ERA Coalition's legal task force and participated in congressional briefings for House and Senate staffers. Coberly was instrumental in implementing the firm's gender-neutral family leave policy. She is on the board of United Way of Metro Chicago and is a vice president of the Goodman Theatre board.

### LINSEY COHEN

Real estate practice chair  
Gould & Ratner

Linsey Cohen assumed chairmanship of Gould & Ratner's real estate practice in February. In the past year, Cohen negotiated leases for a discount super-



market chain in its nationwide expansion. She helped one of the nation's largest drug-store retailers in its store development through leasing,

acquisition and repurposing assets. And she has represented California coffee chain Philz Coffee in its nationwide expansion, including its four Chicago-area locations that opened last year. Cohen joined Gould & Ratner in 2009 from Schain Burney Ross & Citron, where she was a partner. She helps lead Gould & Ratner Opportunities for Women, a program that helps female clients and contacts network with the firm's female attorneys. Last year she joined the board of nonprofit ZCenter, which supports survivors of sexual abuse.

**SHAYNA COOK**

Partner  
Goldman Ismail Tomaselli Brennan & Baum

Trial lawyer Shayna Cook represents Fortune 500 clients in commercial disputes and product liability and patent cases.



She is on the management committee at the trial boutique and is the firm's hiring, mentoring and wellness partner. Clients include Merck,

Bayer and AbbVie. As part of her pro bono work, Cook represented 3M in its quest to quash a COVID-19 price-gouging scheme. Cook and her team won an injunction against a medical supply company offering falsely affiliated 3M N95 respirators at inflated prices. Cook led Goldman Ismail to join the Law Firm Antiracism Alliance, a group committed to advancing efforts against systemic racism. And she spearheaded the firm's American Bar Association wellness pledge, including a commitment to help the advancement of female lawyers by balancing family and work obligations.

**RACHEL COWEN**

Partner, employment  
McDermott Will & Emery

Labor and employment attorney Rachel Cowen handles collective bargaining and labor arbitrations and represents financial services companies and professional en-



gineering firms in unfair-competition cases. She counsels employers facing union organizing activity and picketing and has successfully

tried cases before the National Labor Relations Board. Recently, the Nature Conservancy retained Cowen to investigate allegations of sexual harassment and workplace misconduct by three senior officials at the nonprofit. Cowen joined McDermott Will & Emery in 2018 from DLA Piper, where she was a partner in charge of the Chicago employment group. At DLA she handled employment discrimination and wrongful-termination cases in federal and state courts. She worked pro bono with Northwestern Law School students on the case of a man who was wrongfully convicted of murder when he was a teenager.

**PAMELA COX**

Partner  
Marshall Gerstein

As chair of Marshall Gerstein's IP transactions practice, Pamela Cox structures collaboration agreements and devises contracts to scale and produce



products. She specializes in life science, pharma, biotech and medical devices. Cox teams with in-house technology transfer teams

to carry out licensing strategies that ultimately benefit patients suffering from diseases. During the pandemic, she has teamed with in-house counsels to address an unprecedented number of force majeure situations. She advised clients on their work on assays to detect COVID as well as on vaccines. One genetic tool she has worked on has proven effective in treating models of diabetes, muscular dystrophy and acute kidney disease. Last year, Cox co-founded the Women in Licensing Alliance, part of the Licensing Executives Society International. She leads Marshall Gerstein's Women's Group.

**TIFFANY CUNNINGHAM**

Partner  
Perkins Coie

At Perkins Coie, Tiffany Cunningham is a patent litigator counseling Fortune 500 technology companies including Intel and Microsoft. She is a member



of the firm's executive committee and information governance advisory board. Cunningham recently led a 10-person team in a

multipatent infringement suit regarding computer network security, and she was lead counsel in a nine-patent case related to functionalities in smartphones or tablets. She joined Perkins Coie in 2014 from Kirkland & Ellis, where she was a partner handling biotechnology, pharmaceutical and computer science cases. Cunningham serves as chair of the Perkins Coie Chicago diversity and inclusion committee and is a member of the Women's Forum. Since 2014, she has helped lead the firm's participation in ChIPs, a nonprofit that connects women in technology and law.

**BRYNA DAHLIN**

Partner  
Benesch

Bryna Dahlin represents clients in the cannabis industry, including growers, retailers, manufacturers and investors. Recently, she handled the acquisition of client



CannaRegs, a cannabis legal database. And Dahlin has represented licensed cannabis retailers and cultivators before

state agencies. Dahlin was a litigation partner at Winston & Strawn before leaving to focus on cannabis. She was a partner at Flener IP & Business Law, a women-owned firm with a cannabis focus, before joining Benesch last year. Dahlin is on the steering committee of Benesch B-Sharp, which supports female attorneys. And she is pro bono counsel for Chicago NORML, part of the national organization for the reform of marijuana laws. She is an adjunct professor at Chicago-Kent College of Law and a founding member of the Illinois Cannabis Bar Association.

Taft/

# Congratulations

to Kim Walberg on being named to the 2020 Notable Women in Law list by *Crain's Chicago Business*.



**Kim R. Walberg**  
Partner

Taftlaw.com



## NOTABLE 2020 WOMEN IN LAW

### C. ELIZABETH DARKE

Member  
Dykema Gossett

As professional personnel member, C. Elizabeth Darke manages associates, senior and staff attorneys, and paralegals. She works with Dykema's directors



and executive board in recommending and promoting policies affecting 140 firm attorneys, as well as compensation and bonuses

for nonmember attorneys and paralegals. She proposed a new billable- and nonbillable-hours requirement for associates and senior attorneys that was approved last year. Darke conducts retreats at which she trains new associates and mentors midlevel attorneys. She also serves on the diversity and inclusion committee. Darke's legal practice focuses on real estate lending, leasing, acquisitions and dispositions. Recently, she negotiated a 61,000-square-foot commercial lease on behalf of a property owner in downtown Chicago. And she closed two deals for a national banking client totaling more than \$100 million.

### MEENAKSHI DATTA

Partner  
Sidley Austin

At Sidley Austin, Meenakshi Datta is co-leader of the firm's global health care practice, with 26 lawyers in Chicago, Washington, D.C., and London. She also



leads the Chicago health care group. During the pandemic, Datta has counseled clients on COVID-19 matters, including crisis management, public

health reporting, privacy and risk mitigation. She advises on drug pricing, health care reform, fraud and abuse compliance, and privacy issues. She also supports drug and device product launches. Last year, Datta managed regulatory aspects of Fortive's \$2.7 billion purchase of Johnson & Johnson's medical sterilization unit and advised a Fortive subsidiary in its acquisition of hospital software developer Censis. Datta is a frequent speaker at life sciences conferences. She is on the board of the March of Dimes Chicago chapter.

### KIMBERLY DEBEERS

Partner  
Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom

Kimberly deBeers heads the M&A/corporate group in Skadden's Chicago office. Recently, DeBeers represented O'Reilly



Automotive, an operator of 5,500 retail stores, in its expansion into Mexico. She advised private-equity firm Black Diamond

Capital Management in acquiring control of Empire Generator. In addition, she represented the Center for Diagnostic Imaging, a provider of outpatient diagnostic imaging services, in its sale to Wellspring Capital Management. At Skadden, deBeers is a member of the steering committee for private equity, has been serving as the attorney development partner and is a member of the hiring committee. She has provided pro bono assistance to Chicago nonprofits including the Eleanor Foundation and Ladder Up. DeBeers speaks and leads programs at the Practising Law Institute on securities issues relating to mergers and acquisitions.

### GINA ARQUILLA DEBONI

Managing partner  
Romanucci & Blandin

As managing partner, Gina Arquilla DeBoni is responsible for quality assurance as well as marketing and legislative outreach.



A personal injury attorney, DeBoni is skilled at getting high-profile cases off the ground. The firm is representing restaurants and

businesses that have suffered losses due to the pandemic. It's also representing property owners who suffered from flooding in Midland, Mich., after a dam broke in May. Earlier, the firm represented victims of the 2016 Pulse Nightclub shooting in Orlando, Fla. DeBoni's leadership on a sex-trafficking case contributed to passage of a federal law cracking down on traffickers. DeBoni began her career in insurance defense law and joined Romanucci & Blandin 10 years ago. Last year, she spoke on career development at an International Women's Day panel in Chicago.

### HEATHER DELGADO

Partner  
Barnes & Thornburg

Heather Delgado specializes in the health care sector, assisting providers and entrepreneurs in mergers and joint ventures and establishing physician management



companies. During the pandemic, Delgado has helped hospitals and other providers develop policies to address issues posed

by COVID-19. Earlier, Delgado handled purchases of physician practices by hospitals. She advised a health care system on the process of building and opening a rehabilitation hospital. And she advised a physician group in the formation of an orthopedic hospital and its lease to a health care system. Beyond transactions, she provides legal advice such as the drafting of HIPAA policies and procedures. Delgado joined Barnes & Thornburg in 2009 from McGuire Woods, where she was a partner. She is president of the Service League of Northwest Indiana.

### GEORGIA LOUKAS DEMEROS

Equity partner  
Thompson Coburn

Estate planning adviser Georgia Loukas Demeros draws on her background as a CPA to give



businesses and individuals a holistic assessment of their assets, tax liabilities, estate planning and corporate legal needs. She advises

multigenerational families on wealth-transfer issues and has led tax work and corporate restructuring for family-owned businesses. Demeros co-presented to the Chicago Estate Planning Council on the federal SECURE Act, which is designed to aid Americans' ability to save for retirement. She's a member of the firm's Women's Initiative Steering Committee and co-chair of the initiative's business development committee, overseeing networking events for female attorneys and clients. Demeros is a legal adviser to the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago and an officer of the Hellenic Bar Association of Illinois.

### BETSY DERWINSKI

Shareholder  
Brinks Gilson & Lione

Patent specialist Betsy Derwinski focuses on matters in the medical device, athletic apparel and sports equipment industries. Derwinski manages the



patent portfolio for one of the largest athletic apparel and equipment manufacturers. She secured patent protection for a large medical device

manufacturer for innovations in cardiac and vessel repair, resulting in advances in surgical procedures and outcomes. And Derwinski won patent protection for devices used in reproductive health procedures, including technology used for in vitro fertilization procedures and postpartum care. Derwinski joined Brinks Gilson in 2012 from Cook Alex, another intellectual property firm. She is on the Brinks diversity and associate evaluation committees. And she has served on the board of managers for the Intellectual Property Law Association of Chicago, a role in which she organized events.

### TARA DEVINE

Lake County office managing partner

Salvi Schostok & Pritchard  
Office Managing Partner Tara Devine oversees operations in Salvi Law's Waukegan office. A specialist in personal injury,



Devine over the past year obtained more than \$1.5 million on behalf of nursing home clients. This year, she obtained a \$1 million

settlement for a man who had to undergo surgery and immunotherapy after a delayed cancer diagnosis. A few months earlier, she won a \$3 million medical malpractice settlement. Devine joined Salvi in 2004 as an associate and became the firm's first female partner in 2011. In 2018, she was promoted to managing partner of the Lake County office. This year, Devine was elected second vice president of the Lake County Bar Association. She is on the board of managers of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association.

### BETH DICKSTEIN

Partner  
Sidley Austin

At Sidley Austin, Beth Dickstein is co-leader of the firm's employee benefits and executive compensation practice, which has grown in numbers and ge-



ography under her tenure. She represents pension trusts and investment managers, advising them on ERISA fiduciary duties and the marketing

of investment products to retirement plans. During the pandemic, Dickstein has advised organizations on how to implement the provisions of the federal CARES Act, including whether to give employees access to benefits under their retirement plans. She's the first Sidley woman on a reduced-hours schedule to be promoted to partner with her class. As vice chair of Sidley's retirement plan committee, she helps Sidley lawyers and staff prepare for their financial futures. She has served on American Bar Association committees on employee benefits and executive compensation.

### AMY DOEHRING

Partner  
Akerman

At Akerman, Amy Doehring co-chairs the firm's probate and fiduciary litigation practice and chairs the resource group Women's Initiative Network in Chicago. In January



2019, Doehring tried a month-long bench trial in Illinois, representing the Carle Foundation in its decade-long battle to

restore the revoked property tax exemptions for properties used by its nonprofit Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana. The case could affect other nonprofit hospitals in Illinois. She leads litigation teams in nine cases in Texas related to chemical plant fires following Hurricane Harvey and in three cases in Los Angeles related to wildfires. Doehring joined Akerman in 2018 from McDermott Will & Emery, where she headed the Chicago litigation practice group for three years. She is on the leadership board of the National Immigrant Justice Center.

# CRAIN'S 2020 NOTABLE WOMEN IN LAW



## EILEEN M. SETHNA

I am grateful to be recognized by Crain's and humbled to be included among so many other notable women in law. Not only are these women exceptional professionals, they make service a priority by advocating for causes that provide health, enrichment, support and nourishment of the body, heart and mind.

In the spirit of women supporting other women, please join me in celebrating my colleagues and friends who lead by serving their teams through leadership and their community through service.



Eileen Sethna, Partner, Financial Services and Restructuring, Levenfeld Pearlstein; supports Misericordia and Special Olympics Illinois



LPlegal.com



**SAVI PAI**, Senior Vice President, Private Wealth Advisor, Capital Group Private Client Services; supports Ingenuity



**GABRIELLE ("GABY") GRIFFIN**, Market Leader, Family Office Exchange; supports Chicago Debates and longtime supporter of the Chicago Arts



**CLIO SILMAN**, Global Banking Executive; supports The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society



**INGRID DEROUBAIX**, Senior Vice President and Commercial Team Leader, Huntington National Bank; supports the Chicago Children's Museum



**FELICE MOONEY MADDA**, Past President, The Misericordia Women's Board



**SHWETA VAN BEVEREN**, Deputy General Counsel - Real Estate, Transformco; supports Reclaim 13



**JENNY FORTNER**, Managing Director, Goldman Sachs; supports the Les Turner ALS Foundation, Misericordia, and Board Member of Special Olympics International, Special Olympic Illinois, and The Big Shoulders Fund



**KEMI SOLADE**, Senior Vice President, Commercial Middle Market Banking, BMO Harris Bank; supports Safer Foundation, Ajilla Foundation and Youth Guidance's WOW program



**CANDICE KORKIS**, Senior Counsel, Legal & Regulatory Compliance, BMO Financial Group; supports the Greater Chicago Food Depository



**CAROLYN S. DALEY**, Partner, Power Rogers; supports Special Olympics Chicago/Special Children's Charities



**SHEILA GOLDEN**, Independent Marketing Consultant; supports Concern Worldwide



**SHELLEY CHENOWETH**, Director of Corporate Partnerships, Special Olympics Illinois



**LOIS GATES**, Assistant Executive Director, Misericordia



**NADINE LACOMBE**, General Counsel, Regional Transportation Authority; supports Diversity and Inclusion Planning



## NOTABLE 2020 WOMEN IN LAW

### LAUREN NORRIS DONAHUE

Partner  
K&L Gates  
As a partner in the antitrust, competition and trade regulation practice group, Lauren Norris Donahue counsels corporate



clients and senior executives through government investigations and class-action litigation, particularly in antitrust, cartel and trade

regulation. Early in the pandemic, she co-authored a Law 360 article, "Mitigating Antitrust Risks With DOJ-FTC Pandemic Guidance." She also published alerts on antitrust developments and guidance in light of the pandemic. Recently, she represented a Japanese capacitor manufacturer and its U.S. subsidiary in an antitrust class action. And she represented a former StarKist executive in a criminal antitrust investigation. Donahue joined K&L Gates in 2009 from Bell Boyd & Lloyd. She has handled pro bono assignments for the National Immigrant Justice Center, the Illinois Torture Inquiry & Relief Commission and Chicago Volunteer Legal Services.

### ALEXIS CRAWFORD DOUGLAS

Partner  
K&L Gates  
Partner Alexis Crawford Douglas specializes in trademark, copyright, domain name, social media and other intellectual



property issues. At the start of the COVID-19 crisis, she counseled a client developing ventilators on reinstating lawfully used domain names

that had been suspended. Recently she represented a spirits company in a dispute on bottle design. This year, Douglas was elected to the board of managers of the Chicago Bar Association. She also chaired Women's History Month programming for the association. Last year, she co-chaired the association's first Working Women's Legal Summit. Douglas played a key role in K&L Gates' expansion of parental leave in 2018 and worked on a committee to implement a ramp-down, ramp-up program. She joined K&L Gates as an associate in 2011.

### KASEY DUNLAP

Partner  
Akerman

Litigation partner Kasey Dunlap chairs the firm's resource group, Women's Initiative Network, and serves on the firm's board as well as its Philanthropic Council. She



is co-leader of the Wells Fargo client team. Dunlap represents banking, financial institution and broker-dealer clients in FDIC, SEC, FINRA

and private litigation matters. As chair of Akerman's women's group, Dunlap has led initiatives to support colleagues who are working remotely during the pandemic. She has challenged management to evaluate policies that affect women, such as parental leave, flex time and fertility benefits. And Dunlap has collaborated with management on increasing hiring, retention and advancement of attorneys of color. She joined Akerman in 2014 from Ulmer & Berne, where she was a partner for four years. She speaks often on workplace diversity.

### CHRISTINA EGAN

Chicago office managing partner  
McGuireWoods

Former federal prosecutor Christina Egan manages the Chicago office and is a member of the international firm's board of partners. She practices in



the areas of government investigations and white-collar litigation. Egan played a pivotal role on the McGuireWoods team that secured

the March 2019 dismissal of criminal charges against former U.S. Rep. Aaron Schock of Illinois after a highly publicized federal case focused on his alleged misuse of campaign and government funds. Before joining McGuireWoods in 2012, Egan was an assistant U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Illinois for 10 years. She tried more than 20 cases involving racketeering, public corruption, fraud, narcotics trafficking and gang activity. Egan teaches RICO law and previously taught trial advocacy at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law.

### MARCI EISENSTEIN

Managing partner  
Schiff Hardin

The first female managing partner at Schiff Hardin, Marci Eisenstein oversees 435 lawyers and employees across seven offices. During the pandemic,



Eisenstein has provided resources to help attorneys meet COVID-related challenges and added policies to help working parents. Last year, Schiff

Hardin achieved Mansfield Certified Plus status, reaching at least 30 percent diverse lawyer representation in its leadership ranks. Eisenstein led the firm's class-actions practice, defending corporations against more than 100 challenges. To give younger partners greater ownership and opportunity to lead, she created deputy practice group leadership roles. Since 2019, 57 percent of the deputy practice group leaders appointed have been women. Eisenstein speaks regularly at legal conferences about law firm strategy and the importance of broadening opportunities for professionals with diverse backgrounds.

### LINDA FINE

Co-founder  
Buckley Fine

Estate planning attorney Linda Fine recently launched Buckley Fine Law with partner David Buckley. The new firm has 28 lawyers and staff. Fine will chair



the estate planning and estate settlement groups. Fine had practiced at Kelleher & Buckley, which she joined in 2007 and helped grow

from a single office with eight attorneys to a 25-attorney firm with three Illinois locations. This year, Fine resolved a \$5 million trust administration that almost headed to court. Last year, she helped a family with succession planning for its \$80 million medical packaging plant. She speaks often on estate planning topics at events hosted by banks, financial institutions and professional organizations. She's a member of the DuPage County Estate Planning Council as well as the WealthCounsel Illinois Forum.

### MEG GEORGE

Chicago office managing partner  
Akerman

As head of the Chicago office, Meg George oversees a team of 90 lawyers and staff and is responsible for recruitment, diversity and talent development.



She's a member of Akerman's executive committee and chair of the firm's Well Being Council. George specializes in real estate and

municipal law regulating land use and zoning. During the pandemic, George has worked with retail clients to revise building interior layouts for new spacing requirements to ensure safety of employees and customers. Before joining Akerman in 2017, George was a partner at Neal & Leroy specializing in zoning and land use. During her tenure there, she served on the Chicago Sustainability Task Force, which drafted the city's sustainable development policy. She is on the board of the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum.

### DEBORAH GERSH

Health care partner  
Ropes & Gray

Deborah Gersh is co-chair of the health care practice and co-leader of the health care and life sciences industry group. She also participates in the firm's



data, privacy and cybersecurity group. This year, she's working with clients on COVID-19 issues. Gersh advised the providers of

Advocate Aurora Health on obtaining temporary licenses to practice across Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana. She is on the team advising Northwestern Memorial Healthcare on its reporting obligations and its phased reopening of buildings. She advised Advocate Aurora on a joint venture with Taiwanese technology giant Foxconn that consolidates data and uses predictive analytics and AI machine learning to personalize health care. Gersh is a member of the firm's Women's Forum. And she co-leads the pro bono representation of Heartland Health Outreach.

### CAROL V. GILDEN

Partner  
Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll

Carol V. Gilden is a partner in Cohen Milstein's securities litigation and investor protection practice group. She represents public pension funds, Taft-Hart-



ley pension and health and welfare funds, and other institutional investors in securities class actions and other litigation. Gilden

recently was co-lead counsel representing Teamsters Local 719 Pension Plan in a shareholder class action against Credit Suisse. A \$15.5 million settlement was inked in July. Gilden is representing pension plans in an action seeking to hold the board of Google parent Alphabet accountable for years of gender discrimination and sexual harassment cover-ups. Gilden was the first female president of the National Association of Shareholder & Consumer Attorneys, the association for securities class-action attorneys, and currently is on the executive committee.

### JEANNE GILLS

Partner  
Foley & Lardner

Partner Jeanne Gills is vice chair of Foley's national intellectual property department and sits on the management committee. She advises clients on IP strategy



and serves as lead trial counsel in patent, trade secret, trademark, copyright and unfair-competition litigation. As one of the few first-chair

Black patent litigators in the country—and as a Black female equity partner—Gills has been a frequent commentator on diversity in the legal profession. "All of us should feel terrible about Black women making up less than 1 percent of the equity partners in law firms," she wrote in a June article. Gills is the founder and former chair of Foley's African American affinity group. She's a founding member of the Black Patent Network and Chicago Black Partners Alliance.



**PAULA GOEDERT**

Partner  
Barnes & Thornburg

Paula Goedert serves as chair of the Barnes & Thornburg associations and foundations practice group, representing nonprofit organizations including professional



societies, trade associations, public charities and private foundations. Clients include the American College of Surgeons and

the American Library Association. During the COVID crisis, Goedert has guided several hundred nonprofits through meeting cancellations, insurance claims and denials, virtual elections, staff furloughs, infected employees, office reopenings and raids on endowments. Goedert is a frequent lecturer and has written articles on nonprofit and association topics including governance, antitrust, copyright issues, lobbying by exempt organizations and human resources issues. She is a former board member of the Association Forum and the American Society of Association Executives Foundation. She also was a member of the Lyric Opera Guild Board.

**SUSAN GOLDENBERG**

Partner  
Neal Gerber Eisenberg

At Neal Gerber Eisenberg, Susan Goldenberg is a partner in the private wealth department and provides estate planning for business owners, wealthy



individuals and entrepreneurs. She helps her clients transfer wealth to younger generations to achieve tax efficiencies and protection

for beneficiaries and engage in charitable giving. Goldenberg has negotiated gift agreements with universities involving naming rights for her clients who donated significant funds. And she worked to devise a structure to help a client transfer an art collection to her children. Goldenberg began her career in the real estate department at Katten Muchin Rosenman and pivoted to estate planning. She was a partner in Katten's trust and estates practice before joining Neal Gerber Eisenberg in 2006. She's the only female attorney on the Neal Gerber Eisenberg executive committee.

**MYOKA GOODIN**

Partner  
Locke Lord

Intellectual property attorney Myoka Goodin is chair of the firm's litigation support committee and was named to the executive committee in February.



Goodin counsels pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies on the patent landscape, freedom to operate, FDA regulations, patent

licensing, commercialization and antitrust issues. Goodin leads complex patent infringement litigations involving lower-cost generic pharmaceutical products for depression, diabetes, fungal infections and cardiovascular disease. Recently, Goodin has been representing generic drug manufacturers in litigation involving nine patents concerning topical solutions for the treatment of toenail fungus. Through the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity, she mentors Chicago law students. With an eye for diversity, she manages recruitment for the firm's IP pharma practice group. And she serves on the executive committee of domestic violence legal clinic Ascend Justice.

**STACIE R. HARTMAN**

Partner  
Steptoe & Johnson

At Steptoe & Johnson, Stacie R. Hartman co-chairs the financial services group, which comprises more than 60 lawyers across nine offices around the world.



In the past 18 months, Hartman has led significant cases involving confidential investigations by the SEC and CFTC and internal inves-

tigations—specifically around allegations of financial reporting irregularities, trading violations, false statements and fraud. Her clients include prominent local brokerage firms and traders. In March, Hartman presented an oral argument before the Federal Circuit that resulted in a precedent-setting decision that overturned a ruling by the Patent Trial & Appeal Board. She's active in the firm's Women's Forum and was elected to the professional advancement committee. Hartman is vice chair of the American Bar Association's derivatives law committee and is on the board of the Anti-Defamation League Midwest Region.

**KATRINA HAUSFELD**

Partner  
DLA Piper

Katrina "Katie" Hausfeld recently was promoted to partner at DLA Piper, where she is a member of the white-collar and investigation practice. Hausfeld



advises companies in connection with investigations and government enforcement actions. She also assists her clients in implement-

ing risk-based compliance programs. Hausfeld recently represented a European company in the resolution of a World Bank matter involving fraud and corruption allegations. Before joining DLA in 2013, Hausfeld was an associate at Duane Morris and earlier at Mayer Brown. She is co-chair of the Chicago office's women's initiative. In a pro bono assignment, Hausfeld represented two boys who were separated from their fathers after crossing the U.S.-Mexico border to seek asylum. She recently was selected to mentor a Guatemalan law student through DLA's global scholarships program.



**Tanya J. Stanish:**  
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## NOTABLE 2020 WOMEN IN LAW

**VALARIE HAYS**

Partner  
Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila

Former federal prosecutor Valarie Hays focuses on white-collar defense, investigations and compliance work. She has tried 16 federal jury trials and conducted



more than 150 investigations. Recently, Hays served as trial counsel for a bank executive charged with fraud, but the government moved to dis-

miss the indictment with prejudice on the eve of the January trial. Earlier, Hays represented in a criminal wire fraud matter in a trial that resulted in a hung jury and dismissal with prejudice by the government. Hays joined Riley Safer in 2016 from Schiff Hardin. She served two stints as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Illinois. In April, she published an article in Law360 advising that nursing homes must prepare for the risk of False Claims Act liability.

**SONDRA HEMERYCK**

Partner  
Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila

Founding partner Sondra Hemeryck focuses on class actions and other complex litigation. Recently, she represented United Airlines in six consumer class



actions filed in four different U.S. district courts. They related to COVID-19 flight cancellation refunds and other issues, putting her on the lead-

ing edge of defending business interests in a wave of pandemic-related litigation. She also represented an insurance company in multiple class actions and obtained a summary judgment for a global food and beverage manufacturer. Hemeryck was among 22 partners who left Schiff Hardin in 2016 to establish Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila. She had practiced at Schiff Hardin for more than 23 years. She serves as lead for a local chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America.

**ELIZABETH HESS**

Partner  
Kirkland & Ellis

At Kirkland & Ellis, Elizabeth Hess represents clients in government enforcement defense and internal investigations and litigation matters. In the past 18



months, Hess has represented clients in more than a dozen confidential government investigations, often in connection with alleged vi-

olations of the False Claims Act. Cases include alleged violations of the Anti-Kickback Statute, off-label promotion of products and improper billing practices. One career highlight was successfully defending Abbott Laboratories in a False Claims Act case with more than \$1 billion at stake. Hess is a member of the firm's litigation associate and junior partner review committees. She has been a longtime supporter of LINK Unlimited, which supports Black youth, and Beat the Streets Chicago Wrestling, an organization that helps at-risk youth through wrestling and enrichment programs.

**MAGGIE HICKEY**

Partner  
Schiff Hardin

Former federal prosecutor Maggie Hickey last year was appointed independent monitor to oversee implementation of a consent decree for the Chicago



Police Department. Following the killing of George Floyd, Hickey is conducting a special review of the department's response to civic

protests. Hickey joined Schiff Hardin in 2018 to lead the firm's white-collar defense and government investigations practice. Previously she served as Illinois executive inspector general. After joining Schiff Hardin, Hickey was tapped by the Chicago Board of Education to investigate allegations that students were sexually abused by employees. That year she also investigated charges of sexual harassment in the Illinois House speaker's office. Hickey spent more than 10 years as a prosecutor, including five years as executive assistant U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Illinois.

**LAURA HOEY**

Chicago office managing partner  
Ropes & Gray

Laura Hoey oversees strategy to grow the firm's practice in the Midwest, including litigation and enforcement, health care and private equity. She's



co-leader of the health care and life sciences industry group and handles high-profile cases defending individuals facing government investi-

gations and alleged health care fraud. Last year, she was co-lead counsel for one of the parents charged in the college admissions scandal. Also in 2019, she secured a successful civil settlement on behalf of a major pharmacy company following a multiyear investigation. Before rejoining Ropes & Gray in 2011, Hoey was an assistant U.S. attorney in Arkansas. Under Hoey's leadership, the Chicago office has expanded its outreach in the local community, including hosting pro bono legal clinics to help people with criminal records gain employment.

# Congratulations, Molly Sharma!

Named to Chicago's 2020 Notable Women in Law List

Molshree "Molly" A. Sharma is a savvy, accessible and vigorous family law advocate for clients. She handles complex matters that require high-level financial experience with different kinds of assets and income. She is extremely successful at resolving parenting matters or litigating them with sensitivity in court. As the daughter of a high-ranking diplomat, Molly traveled the world as a young woman and developed a passion for international family law. Molly has a special expertise in international custody disputes and Hague convention cases, a treaty governing issues of international child abduction and jurisdiction. Molly has lectured all over the world and has prolifically published on family law matters.



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**AMANDA HOLLIS**

Partner  
Kirkland & Ellis

As the youngest woman to make equity partner in Kirkland's intellectual property practice, Amanda Hollis represents Fortune 500 companies as lead or co-lead trial counsel. Her practice includes biotechnology, medical devices, chemistry, computing and electronics.



Hollis joined Kirkland in 2008 from Latham & Watkins, where she was an associate. She's a member of Kirkland's associate review committee, responsible for maintaining consistency of promotions. She previously led the Chicago office's domestic violence pro bono program. She is a co-founder and leader of Big Careers Little Kids, a group that connects female professionals in law, finance and business when they are approaching the peak of their careers and have young children. And she's active in WOMN LLC, a mentoring program to help women succeed in the business of law.

**SHARON HWANG**

Shareholder  
McAndrews Held & Malloy

At McAndrews Held & Malloy, Sharon Hwang specializes in intellectual property law and is a member of the executive committee. She's one of a limited number of patent litigators with experience before federal district courts, the Patent Trial & Appeal Board, the Federal Circuit Court



of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court. In 2018, Hwang argued before the Federal Circuit a highly publicized appeal over one of the largest awards of punitive damages in a patent infringement case. She secured an affirmation of the district court's \$254 million judgment in favor of her client, a maker of medical devices. Hwang established the firm's Diversity in Patent Law Fellowship in 2009 and oversees the program. She is president of the Greater Chicago Legal Clinic.

**KATIE JAKOLA**

Partner  
Kirkland & Ellis

Litigation partner Katie Jakola has won trials in federal and state courts nationwide in commercial litigation matters involving mass tort, product liability, contract disputes and restructurings. During the pandemic, Jakola has served as lead litigation counsel for Macy's in connection with its



\$4 billion financing in response to impacts from the virus. The liability management work for Macy's could serve as a guide for retail and other companies facing challenges due to the pandemic. Jakola serves as BP's national coordinating counsel, with responsibility for more than 920 personal injury lawsuits pending in federal court. She defended the company against thousands of personal injury claims arising from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. She has served in lead roles on diversity and inclusion initiatives, including Kirkland's Women's Leadership initiative.

**KERRY JOHNSON**

Real estate sector co-chair  
DLA Piper

Partner Kerry Johnson was named co-chair of the real estate sector in January. Johnson specializes in real estate investment trusts and their underwriters. She has helped REIT issuer clients raise \$8 billion in private offerings, IPOs and follow-on equity and debt offerings. In the past 18



months, Johnson represented AXA Investment Managers in its \$1.1 billion acquisition of NorthStar Realty Europe. Earlier she represented LaSalle Hotel Properties in its \$5.2 billion sale to Pebblebrook Hotel Trust. Through DLA's Leadership Alliance for Women, Johnson is working to ensure that other attorneys maintain wellness during the pandemic. She's a member of the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts and mentors young women considering a career in the male-dominated REIT industry. Johnson joined DLA Piper in 2015 from Hunton & Williams.

**MICHELLE KANTOR**

Member  
McDonald Hopkins

Michelle Kantor is chair of the federal and local contracting and procurement practice group at McDonald Hopkins, representing women-, minority- and veteran-owned businesses. During the pandemic, she has volunteered to help businesses navigate the federal CARES Act. Kantor has



more than 30 years of experience in government contracting, diversity certifications, procurement law, corporate law and government contracting disputes. She joined McDonald Hopkins in 2008. Earlier, she was deputy director at the Chicago Department of Construction & Permits and was deputy commissioner of the Department of Buildings. Kantor is on the board of the Women's Business Development Center and assists with certifications for a nine-state region. She is general counsel for the Federation of Women Contractors. Kantor speaks to trade associations nationally and locally on procurement-related issues.



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**LEADERS.**

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Congratulations to **Patty Cain, Sue Goldenberg, Tonya Newman, Leah Schleicher** and **Sonya Rosenberg** on their well-deserved recognition in Crain's 2020 Notable Women in Law. As leaders, role models and advocates, these trailblazing women successfully juggle their careers, philanthropic activities and family, leading the way for others through their inclusive leadership.

**Neal Gerber Eisenberg** is proud of its legacy of leading the advancement of women in law firms and helping them achieve their professional goals through programming, training, and advocating for women to achieve leadership positions within the firm.



Leah Schleicher

Patty Cain

Sonya Rosenberg

Tonya Newman

Sue Goldenberg



## NOTABLE 2020 WOMEN IN LAW

### JENNIFER KENEDY

Executive committee vice chair  
Locke Lord

Partner Jennifer Kennedy specializes in commercial litigation, including trade secret misappropriation and other intellectual property disputes as well as



employment and contractual disputes. Kennedy also serves as the firm's deputy general counsel and chairs the firm's committee governing flexible work arrangements.

She is chairing a task force to establish a transformative way to provide legal services post-COVID. Kennedy was the first female managing partner of the Chicago office, serving between 2010 and 2018. She co-founded and led the firm's women's initiative. Kennedy co-founded the Coalition of Women's Initiatives in Law, a nonprofit membership association dedicated to advancing female lawyers. She also co-founded Women Office Managing Partners, a group that meets to share best practices. She is on the executive board of the Within Reach Foundation.

### LORETTO KENNEDY

Principal  
Chuhak & Tecson

Loretto Kennedy leads Chuhak & Tecson's aviation litigation and transactions practice group and focuses on airline litigation and product and premises liability.



She has represented aviation parties in litigation arising out of airline accidents, including crashes in Peru and Indonesia. During the pandemic,

she has handled depositions and court appearances by video and assisted younger attorneys and colleagues by hosting after-hours calls. Kennedy is a founding member of Chuhak & Tecson networking and philanthropic group Women Helping Women. Kennedy joined Chuhak & Tecson in 2004 from Holland & Knight, where she was a partner. Previously, she was a partner at Burke Weaver & Prell. Kennedy has been active in the Chicago Bar Association, having served on its board of managers and several terms on the judicial evaluation committee.

### LIVIA KISER

Partner  
King & Spalding

Livia Kiser defends multinationals in high-stakes disputes arising from allegedly dangerous products or substances, consumer fraud, false advertising,



breach of warranty, privacy violations and unfair competition. In the past 18 months, Kiser has defended a large U.S. food producer

against consumer fraud and false-advertising claims. In another case, she was successful in moving to deny certification for a proposed class action related to airline check-in procedures. Kiser joined King & Spaulding in 2018 from Sidley Austin, where she was a partner in the litigation group. Her pro bono work has focused on obtaining asylum for persecuted individuals and ensuring that children with disabilities obtain necessary services in public schools. Kiser is on the firm's diversity committee and is active in the Women's Bar Association of Illinois.

### HEATHER KISSLING

Partner  
Marshall Gerstein & Borun

In addition to securing biotechnology patents and developing worldwide patent prosecution strategies, Heather Kissling serves as chair of the prosecution practice.



Kissling manages the patent portfolio for a therapeutic recently approved by the FDA and several foreign regulatory

agencies to treat a disease afflicting roughly 200 million women. She has teamed with outside legal service providers to increase efficiencies and reduce costs for certain aspects of patent prosecution. Before joining Marshall Gerstein in 2007, Kissling worked as a patent agent at Leydig Voit & Mayer. Kissling is on Marshall Gerstein's professional development and orientation committee and is active in the firm's women's affinity group. She was a founding member of the Chicago chapter of Women in Bio and serves on the chapter's advisory board.

### ASHLEE KNUCKEY

Partner  
Locke Lord

At Locke Lord, Ashlee Knuckey is a partner in the business litigation and dispute resolution practice group and is chair of the food, beverage and cosmetics



industry group. She is on the firm's board of directors. Knuckey was lead counsel for the Locke Lord team representing WellCare

as national insurance and health care regulatory counsel in its \$17.3 billion merger with Centene that closed earlier this year. She led the team representing WellCare in the sale of its Missouri and Nebraska Medicaid plans to Anthem to satisfy terms of the merger. And she was part of the team that served as counsel to CVS Health in its \$70 million acquisition of Aetna in 2018. She's a member of the firm's attorney development and practice development/marketing committees.

# ROBERT A. CLIFFORD & CLIFFORD LAW OFFICES

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## 2020 CRAIN'S NOTABLE WOMEN IN LAW

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**MICHELLE KOUBA**

Partner  
Michael Best & Friedrich

Equity partner Michelle Kouba handles international trademark and copyright law as part of the firm's intellectual property practice group. She is currently representing clients in several trademark, trade dress and copyright enforcement and litigation matters involving infringement of clients' intellectual property and associated rights. Her success in targeting infringers operating on e-commerce sites has helped her clients to better control and protect their brands in the current environment. Kouba joined Michael Best in 2013 from Vanek Vickers & Masini. She is on the committee of lawyers and staff that helps implement diversity initiatives, and she's an active member of the firm's Women's Development Group. She serves on the board of nonprofit CannedWater4Kids, which focuses on bringing clean, safe water to children around the world.



**BEATA KRAKUS**

Officer  
Greensfelder Hemker & Gale

As a specialist in franchise law, Beata Krakus has prepared franchise programs for concepts including real estate brokerages, hotels, restaurants, and fitness and personal health systems. She is one of two female attorneys who lead the firm's franchising and distribution group. She also assists clients in managing distribution networks. In the past 18 months, Krakus helped a national franchisor client with lobbying efforts and handled a regulatory investigation of another franchisor client. She also has been involved in international franchise arbitration and has handled the franchise aspects of mergers and acquisitions. Before joining Greensfelder in 2010, Krakus was an attorney at Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal. She's a member of the American Bar Association Forum on Franchising's governing committee. She writes and speaks on topics in franchising.



**LAURA LABEOTS**

Partner  
Lathrop GPM

Intellectual property specialist Laura Labeots helps chemistry and biotechnology industry clients develop and defend their portfolios and develop effective patent strategies. In the past 18 months, Labeots helped a notable research institution procure a large portfolio of patents related to Nobel Prize-winning nucleic acids-based research. She drafted an amicus brief for a U.S. Supreme Court case dealing with the subject matter eligibility of biotech patents. As a member of the amicus committee of the Intellectual Property Law Association of Chicago, Labeots writes U.S. Supreme Court briefs for cases that seek to change patent laws and improve due process for IP legal proceedings. Labeots has a doctorate in organic chemistry and worked on developing diagnostic products at Abbott Laboratories. She joined Lathrop GPM last year from Husch Blackwell.



**REGINA LAMONICA**

Partner  
Perkins Coie

A partner in the white-collar and investigations practice group, Regina "Gina" LaMonica handles white-collar criminal matters as well as securities and civil litigation. She also serves on the firm's evaluation committee. During the last 18 months, LaMonica conducted high-profile investigations on behalf of two Big Ten universities related to public allegations of sexual misconduct. The first was an independent investigation for Ohio State University involving misconduct allegations against a former athletics and student health department physician. The second matter is an independent investigation for the University of Minnesota related to allegations of sexual misconduct by a former hockey coach. In pro bono assignments, LaMonica represents at-risk minors through Chicago Volunteer Legal Services. LaMonica is co-leader of the Chicago chapter of the National Women's White Collar Defense Association.



**DENISE LAZAR**

Partner  
Barnes & Thornburg

Co-chair of the toxic-tort practice, Denise Lazar represents parties in state and federal civil litigation and arbitration proceedings. In 2020, the Appellate Court of Illinois affirmed a 2018 win obtained by Lazar for a nonprofit organization that advocates for transparent government. The case stemmed from the organization's reporting of anti-inclusive remarks by a public official at a government meeting. The official sued the organization when he was removed from his position, but the DuPage County trial court ruled the organization had not defamed the official and dismissed the case. Lazar serves as co-chair of BTWomen and is leading an initiative to double the number of female capital partners over the next five years. She's also a member of the diversity and inclusion committee.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HONOREES  
AND ALL OF CRAIN'S 2020 NOTABLE WOMEN IN LAW**



**GAIL BLEY**



**AMY BLUMENTHAL**



**LINSEY COHEN**



**JESSICA LINGERTAT**

## NOTABLE 2020 WOMEN IN LAW

**JESSICA LINGERTAT**

Managing partner  
Gould & Ratner

Jessica Lingertat was elected a managing partner of the firm in February. A partner in Gould & Ratner's real estate practice, Lingertat focuses on representing middle-market lenders, typically in loans ranging from \$5 million to \$40 million. In the past 18 months, she represented



a global manager of alternative investments in its largest real estate portfolio acquisition, involving dozens of Chicago-area properties. Lingertat represented a family office in several real estate transactions, including property sales to a diversified restaurant group and property acquisitions. She also represented a national builder in a portfolio acquisition of property under development in eight communities. Lingertat leads Gould & Ratner Opportunities for Women, a program that helps female clients and contacts network with the firm's female attorneys.

**JULIA LISSNER**

Litigation partner  
Akerman

Partner Julia Lissner recently was lead counsel on an amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in the case that resulted in the June decision securing federal civil rights law protections for LGBTQ workers. Her brief was on behalf of 46 nonprofit and grassroots organizations dedicated to eradicating



discrimination against transgender and gender-nonconforming people. Her brief on behalf of a transgender student in a case before the 7th Circuit challenged a school district's discriminatory policy on access to bathrooms and led to a transgender-rights victory. She serves on the firm's pro bono executive council. Lissner joined Akerman in 2014 from Ulmer & Berne. Since early 2014, she has represented a U.S. tire company in an ongoing trade dress infringement and unfair-competition lawsuit regarding tire tread patterns.

**GAYLE LITTLETON**

Partner  
Jenner & Block

Former prosecutor Gayle Littleton focuses on anti-corruption, fraud, whistleblower complaints and harassment allegations. She also serves on Jenner's management committee. Littleton represented Commonwealth Edison and Exelon in the government's public-corruption investigation



that resulted in a deferred-prosecution agreement with the Justice Department, announced in July. She was part of a team that successfully challenged the Small Business Administration's rule excluding organizations in bankruptcy from obtaining loans through the Paycheck Protection Program. Littleton served as an assistant U.S. attorney for 12 years, first in Illinois and then in Florida. In Chicago, she was on the prosecution team that investigated and prosecuted Scott Fawell, former Gov. George Ryan's chief of staff, and former Melrose Park Police Chief Vito Scavo. She co-chairs the firm's Chicago Women's Forum.

**LAURA LYDIGSEN**

Shareholder  
Brinks Gilson & Lione

Intellectual property specialist Laura Lydigsen chairs the appellate practice group and is a member of the Brinks executive committee. Her practice focuses on IP litigation in the pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical device industries. Lydigsen assists generic pharmaceutical companies



in obtaining judgments of noninfringement and invalidity of weak brand-side patents that often prevent the public from having access to low-priced generics for years, even decades, after the patents for the true innovation have expired. She has appeared in litigations and/or Patent Trial & Appeal Board proceedings involving more than a dozen different drug products and assisted clients with regulatory and prelitigation strategy for other drug products. She is an active member of the Federal Circuit Bar Association and a co-chair of the amicus committee.

**VIRGINIA MARINO**

Shareholder  
Brinks Gilson & Lione

Intellectual property attorney Virginia Marino focuses on brand protection, copyright and unfair competition. She has experience clearing brand names for pharmaceutical companies as well as in trademark prosecution for life sciences firms. With the growth of the CBD market, Marino has



been involved in developing and implementing strategy for trademark filings and enforcement efforts, including oppositions, for marks covering CBD products and services. Recently, she managed a federal trademark infringement case concerning a dispute between two large food manufacturers and distributors. And Marino developed the brand clearance strategy for a new company name in hospitality. She began her legal career at Brinks in 2008 and rejoined the firm in 2016 after spending more than five years at DLA Piper. She is co-chair of the hiring committee.

# Congratulations!

Partner Laura Labeots is named to the 2020 class of Notable Women in Law by Crain's Chicago Business.

Congratulations, Laura, on this well-deserved recognition. Thank you for your dedication to the firm, community and other women in the legal industry.

**Working together,  
we build exciting futures.**



**Laura Labeots, Ph.D.**

312.920.3357

[laura.labeots@lathrogpm.com](mailto:laura.labeots@lathrogpm.com)

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

**Lathrop  
GPM**



**LINDSEY MARKUS**

Shareholder  
Chuhak & Tecson

Shareholder Lindsey Markus is practice group leader for Chuhak & Tecson's estate planning and asset protection group. She also serves on the executive



committee as well as the firm's business development and marketing committees. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Markus has offered clients driveway signings in which she passes clients the documents while wearing gloves and a mask and in the presence of witnesses standing 30 feet away. During the past year, Markus has educated clients and the public on the new Illinois Trust Code, which became effective in January. She began her career as a law clerk at Chuhak & Tecson in 2006 and built her practice over 10 years. Markus serves on the board of the Jewish United Fund and chairs the nonprofit's philanthropic funds committee.

**LAKEISHA MARSH**

Partner  
Akerman

At Akerman, LaKeisha Marsh is chair of the higher education and collegiate athletics practice and deputy chair of the government affairs and public policy group.



During the pandemic, Marsh is advising higher education institutions on COVID-19 matters and return-to-campus protocols and policies. Marsh represents a collegiate athletic association in its concussion litigation. And she represents a public university in litigation related to the federal Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act. She is deputy chair of Akerman's Women's Initiative Network and created a virtual series for women addressing issues in the work-from-home environment. Marsh is a member of the firm's pro bono executive council. And she serves on the board of Girls in the Game, which mentors girls through sports and leadership programs.

**LAURA KEIDAN MARTIN**

Partner  
Katten

At Katten, Laura Keidan Martin is co-chair of the national health care practice and serves on the executive committee. During the pandemic, Martin's team has



developed a resource guide that includes information about the federal CARES Act as well as checklists for state Medicaid programs. She has counseled clients in connection with the establishment of pop-up hospitals, discontinuation of elective procedures, federal aid programs and other strategies to combat the public health crisis while remaining financially viable. Martin represents large health systems and life sciences companies and advises on physician compensation arrangements. Last year, she spearheaded a national training program to help Katten's female attorneys manage their careers, build essential skills and navigate workplace issues. She serves on the board of the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago.

**CHRISTINA MARTINI**

Partner  
McDermott Will & Emery

Christina Martini is global head of McDermott Will & Emery's trademark prosecution and controversy practice. Her practice includes cases involving



domain names, the internet, social media, advertising and unfair competition. In the past 18 months Martini has led rebranding, litigation and brand development matters for clients in biotechnology, global consulting and beverages. She's co-host of WGN Radio podcast "Legal Face-Off" and host of the "Paradigm Shift" podcast, exploring the intersection of business and law. Martini joined McDermott in 2018 from DLA Piper, where she practiced for almost 25 years. Her pro bono work has included co-chairing the International Trademark Association's Saul Lefkowitz Moot Court Competition for the Midwest region. She's a member of the Chicago Committee on Women's Initiatives in Law.

**STEPHANIE MCCANN**

Partner, corporate advisory  
McDermott Will & Emery

Corporate finance specialist Stephanie McCann represents private-equity groups, commercial lenders and public and private companies. When the



pandemic hit, McCann helped clients navigate their liquidity situations, reviewing financing agreements and weighing options for government assistance. She helped interpret sometimes ambiguous federal loan guidelines and advised clients on financing options. She handled H.I.G. Capital's acquisition of Supply Source Enterprises, a distributor of personal protective equipment, a major transaction amid a decline in global M&A activity. Before joining McDermott in 2014, McCann was a partner at Kirkland & Ellis for more than 11 years. She is on McDermott's executive and management committees and is responsible for instituting female attorney lunches and mentoring groups for the Chicago corporate practice. She helps plan the firm's summits on diversity.

RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

Brava, Brava! Well done.

PERKINS COIE partners Tiffany Cunningham and Gina LaMonica set new standards of excellence in their counsel to clients. We congratulate them on their well-deserved recognition as Notable Women Lawyers.

TIFFANY CUNNINGHAM | PARTNER

Intellectual Property  
Chicago | TCunningham@perkinscoie.com



GINA LAMONICA | PARTNER

White Collar & Investigations  
Chicago | RLaMonica@perkinscoie.com



## NOTABLE 2020 WOMEN IN LAW

**MOLLY MCGINLEY**

Partner  
K&L Gates

At K&L Gates, Molly McGinley specializes in class action and litigation in consumer goods, technology, financial services, investment management, energy, telecommunications and health care. She manages cases arising from statutes including the Telephone Consumer Protection



Act and the Illinois Biometric Information Privacy Act, which guards against the unlawful collection and storing of biometric information. She recently published an article, "What You Need to Know About COVID and Biometric Privacy." McGinley has practiced at K&L Gates since 2006. She's a member of the firmwide pro bono committee and pro bono coordinator for the Chicago office. She is co-chair of K&L Gates for Equal Justice, a joint initiative of the firm's diversity and pro bono committees. McGinley also serves as Chicago office hiring partner and mentors new associates.

**CARRIE MCNALLY**

Special counsel  
Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton

At Sheppard Mullin, Carrie McNally focuses on mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures and public and private financings. McNally recently advised



Morningstar in a \$750 million credit facility and a separate \$50 million revolving credit facility. And she represented Chicago tech incubator 1871 in its February acquisition of the assets and programs of the Illinois Technology Association. She also represented Hecla Mining in two offerings. Before joining Sheppard Mullin in 2012, McNally was a partner at Bell Boyd & Lloyd. She has led the Sheppard Mullin Chicago office's Women's Lawyer Group since its inception in 2012. McNally serves as chair of regional nonprofit conservation organization Openlands. And she is on the board of nonprofit Cradles to Crayons, which supports children through age 12.

**SHANNON MCNULTY**

Partner  
Clifford Law Offices

Personal injury attorney Shannon McNulty leads Clifford Law's consumer law practice group, which includes class actions, mass torts and antitrust



cases. During the pandemic, McNulty has helped business owners with interruption claims due to COVID-19. She serves as co-lead counsel in the Cook County Johnson & Johnson talcum powder litigation related to cases of ovarian cancer. Last year, she led the \$35.75 million settlement of a long-running class action involving alleged leaks by Pella windows. McNulty has practiced with Clifford Law for nearly 17 years and previously worked for the Chicago Police Department, including several years as an administrative director in the Bureau of Operational Services. She speaks often at seminars and association meetings and is known for promoting civility and collegiality, even with opponents in high-stakes litigation.

**SUSAN MEYER**

Officer  
Greensfelder Hemker & Gale

Intellectual property attorney Susan Meyer leads Greensfelder's trademark, copyright, media and advertising group. Last year, she was appointed



Norway's honorary consul for Illinois, assisting with consular affairs and helping to facilitate business and cultural relations between Norway and the U.S. Last year, she worked on the trial team that won a multimillion-dollar copyright infringement case involving the unlicensed use of artwork and graphics for video-reel casino slot machine games—a case that's significant for artwork creators. Before joining Greensfelder in 2017, Meyer practiced at Nixon Peabody and was with Ungaretti & Harris prior to its merger with Nixon. She serves on the board of Women Entrepreneurs Grow Global, a nonprofit that helps women-owned businesses expand internationally. She speaks on franchise and IP topics at association events.

**JENNIFER MIKULINA**

Partner  
McDermott Will & Emery

Partner Jennifer Mikulina specializes in intellectual property, patent and trademark services. She manages global trademark portfolios for notable clients



including New York Life, Terlato Wines, Ian Schrage, Hitachi and Young Innovations. She was part of the McDermott team that won a summary judgment at the Trademark Trial & Appeal Board for Hitachi in June. Mikulina also serves as chair of McDermott's gender diversity committee. In this role, she revamped the firm's women's business development coaching program and established a coaching program for associates. Recently, she was selected by the International Trademark Association to participate in its IP Law Firm of the Future task force. She is on the boards of Lawyers for the Creative Arts and Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago & Northwest Indiana.

**Congratulations to  
Anna Wermuth, one of  
Crain's Chicago Business  
2020 Notable Women in Law.**

**Joe E. Tilson**

Co-Chair, Labor & Employment Department  
(312) 474-7880 | jtilson@cozen.com

**Jeremy J. Glenn**

Member  
(312) 474-7981 | jglenn@cozen.com

750 attorneys | 30 offices | cozen.com





**BRITT MILLER**

Managing partner  
Mayer Brown

At Mayer Brown, Britt Miller manages the 350-lawyer Chicago office and serves as co-leader of the firm's global antitrust and competition practice. In the past



18 months, Miller has led litigation teams representing CDK Global in antitrust class and individual actions alleging anticompetitive practices

in the automotive technology industry. And she helped secure a victory when a federal judge in Illinois dismissed an environmental group's bid to block construction of the \$500 million Obama Presidential Center on Chicago's South Side. Her pro bono work includes securing rulings that reunited two Brazilian migrant mothers with their children after being separated due to the Trump administration's border policy. She's a member of the Chicago Botanic Gardens Guild board and the Rush University Medical Center associates board.

**LESLIE MINIER**

Corporate partner  
Katten

As chief diversity partner, Leslie Minier advises Katten on business development opportunities and consults with management on diversity goals and strategies.



She also leads client partnerships to achieve mutual diversity-related goals. Minier spearheaded Katten's participation in the Mansfield Rule program

aimed at boosting diversity in law firm leadership—the firm achieved certification for meeting standards requiring that at least 30 percent women, LGBTQ+ and minority attorneys be considered for significant leadership roles. Minier recently moderated a Black Lives Matter discussion online for associates at Katten and a dozen other firms. In her corporate practice, Minier advises companies on mergers, acquisitions and dispositions. She also advises private-equity funds investing in leveraged buyouts and selling portfolio companies. She serves on the National Association of Women Lawyers board.

**DEBORAH MONSON**

Partner  
Ropes & Gray

Deborah "Debbie" Monson is head of the firm's derivatives and commodities specialty group and a partner in the asset management practice. In response to



the COVID-19 pandemic, Monson has offered analysis on how regulations being enacted or changed in response to the pandemic

affect asset managers. In the past 18 months, she assisted an asset management client in obtaining regulatory approvals for an investment vehicle in digital asset derivatives. Monson joined Ropes & Gray in 2008 as one of three founding partners of the Chicago office. She led hiring and mentoring for the office's first decade, consistently including women. Previously she practiced at Mayer Brown for more than 13 years. For two decades, she has provided pro bono legal advice to the Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society.

**GAIL MORSE**

Partner  
Jenner & Block

Partner Gail Morse leads Jenner's national state tax practice and provides pro bono guidance to community nonprofits. During the pandemic, Morse has



co-authored analyses of tax implications of federal coronavirus relief acts, including the CARES Act. Last year, as part of the firm team providing

legal assistance to the historic YWCA Evanston/North Shore, she secured property tax exemptions for parcels of property to be included in the construction of a new family support center. Additionally, she achieved federal tax exemption for One Roof Chicago, a nonprofit working to build housing for aging LGBTQ individuals. Morse is a founder and co-chair emeritus of the firm's resource group for LGBTQ professionals and staff. Most recently, she advocated for adoption of a preferred-pronoun policy, advancing inclusivity for transgender lawyers.

**CINTHIA GRANADOS MOTLEY**

Member  
Dykema Gossett

Cinthia Granados Motley is director of the firm's global data privacy and information security practice. Motley acts as incident



response counsel for clients, advising them on information governance and litigation readiness, as well as mitigating cyber-risk exposures, data

security and privacy litigation. She joined Dykema in 2018 from Sedgwick, where she was a partner and co-chair of the cybersecurity and privacy practice. Motley developed and launched Dykema's privacy and cybersecurity blog and set up Dykema's cyber-responder hotline. She speaks at industry seminars on cyber-risks and the challenges in handling personal data under emerging data privacy and protection laws. Motley is a member of the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals' e-discovery pilot program committee and head of its privacy and data security project team.



**Michelle E. Kouba**



2020 NOTABLE  
WOMEN IN LAW

Michael Best & Friedrich LLP

Michelle's passion for the law, hard work and dedication to the firm, and continued commitment to Michael Best's clients sets her apart from other lawyers.

Congratulations to Michelle and all *Crain's Chicago Business* Notable Women in Law honorees.

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

## NOTABLE 2020 WOMEN IN LAW

**CYNDE MUNZER**

Member  
Dykema Gossett

At Dykema, Cynde Munzer is a senior member of the firm's corporate finance practice. During the pandemic, Munzer has managed her team's handling



of hundreds of millions of dollars in credit facilities that provide businesses with more flexibility and cushion. She has worked with bankers

and business executives to craft custom financing solutions and also has helped clients improve operational efficiency. Before joining Dykema in 2017, Munzer was a partner at Aronberg Goldgehn Davis & Garmisa. Munzer helped lead the launch of special programs for female attorneys and business professionals outside the firm—part of Dykema's Women's Business Initiative. Early in the COVID crisis, Munzer led a team in donating more than 2,000 masks to health care institutions and first responders in the Chicago area and Michigan.

**TONYA NEWMAN**

Partner  
Neal Gerber Eisenberg

Partner Tonya Newman handles civil litigation and product liability matters. Her practice includes defense of state and federal product liability matters and



representation of policyholders in insurance coverage cases. Newman recently was part of a Neal Gerber Eisenberg team that successfully

defended the constitutionality of the Illinois hospital property tax exemption law for the Illinois Health & Hospital Association. She also participated on a team advising a high-level Illinois government official on COVID-19-related health care emergency orders. Newman co-chairs the firm's Women's Network Leadership Team. She serves as co-chair of the American Bar Association products liability committee and co-chair of the women in products liability subcommittee. She is on the board of nonprofit Girls on the Run Chicago and is on the Propane Gas Defense Association board.

**MARGO WOLF O'DONNELL**

Partner  
Benesch

At Benesch, Margo Wolf O'Donnell co-chairs the labor and employment group. With 25 years of experience, O'Donnell coun-



sels clients on drafting employment and separation agreements, managing individual and group discharges, and conducting

internal investigations. Clients include large employers such as Cisco, Ace Hardware, Alliant Credit Union and Corner Bakery. Recently, O'Donnell has focused on training clients on best practices for disrupting implicit bias in order to make workplaces fair and less subject to litigation. O'Donnell serves as co-chair of the national board of nonprofit Coalition of Women's Initiatives in Law. She leads B-Sharp, Benesch's coaching and professional development group for female in-house attorneys. Before joining Benesch in 2018, O'Donnell was a shareholder at Vedder Price. She is on the board of the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools.

**JULIE J. OLENN**

Partner  
Jenner & Block

As co-chair of Jenner's private-wealth practice, Julie J. Olenn guides a team of 15 lawyers advising high-net-worth clients. She has a particular focus on



multigenerational tax planning and trust administration. In the past 18 months, Olenn has written articles on planning issues and tech-

niques pertinent in light of high transfer-tax exemptions and low interest rates. In response to the COVID-19 crisis, Olenn helped lead an initiative at the firm to train lawyers in the preparation of health care powers of attorney for individuals working at health care organizations and community nonprofits. Olenn joined Jenner last year, having spent much of her career as tax counsel at a national bank and trust company. She serves as a mentor through the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity.

**PAULITA PIKE**

Partner  
Ropes & Gray

Asset management partner Paulita Pike represents mutual funds and their boards, investment advisers and fund service providers. Recently, Pike advised



Calamos Funds in connection with its acquisition of boutique asset manager Timpani Capital Management. Pike is leading the

team representing Invesco in its SEC application to build a proprietary, semitransparent active ETF. And she handled an offering for six closed-end funds that raised close to \$600 million. Pike is an adjunct professor at Notre Dame Law School and Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, where she teaches courses on mutual fund regulation. As a member of the Women's Forum, she mentors female attorneys. In her pro bono work, Pike has helped DACA recipients extend or change their immigration status. She serves as treasurer of Chicago Shakespeare Theater.

**McAndrews**

McAndrews, Held & Malloy congratulates our Shareholder and Executive Committee member Sharon Hwang on her selection as one of Chicago's Notable Women in Law.

mcandrews-ip.com



**CAROLINE RECKLER**

Partner  
Latham & Watkins

Bankruptcy attorney Caroline Reckler is a partner in Latham's restructuring and special-situations practice and is chair of the firm's Chicago finance department.



Reckler has been at the helm of recent Chapter 11 proceedings including representing Alta Mesa Resources, an oil and gas company,

and GNC Holdings, the health and wellness brand. She also represented American Energy, Permian Basin, in its out-of-court exchange, which involved the restructuring of \$2.2 billion of debt, and chemical concern Hexion in the restructuring of \$4 billion of debt. Reckler led Latham's Women Enriching Business initiative in Chicago and frequently hosts discussions on networking for business development. She serves as guardian ad litem with Chicago Volunteer Legal Services and as pro bono counsel for nonprofit A Better Chicago.

**TERRA REYNOLDS**

Partner  
Latham & Watkins

Former prosecutor Terra Reynolds is co-chair of Latham's Chicago Litigation & Trial Department and vice chair of the health care and life sciences industry group.



This year, Reynolds successfully resolved litigation against several health care provider clients that had faced allegations

of False Claims Act and Anti-Kickback Statute violations. The government agreed to dismiss one of Reynolds' clients from the lawsuit, and the eventual \$72 million settlement with the remaining clients resolved the litigation favorably. Reynolds joined Latham in 2017 from Paul Hastings and developed a specialized health care and life sciences investigations practice. She served for more than a decade as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Northern District of Illinois, eventually rising to deputy chief. She co-leads the Chicago chapter of the Women's White Collar Defense Association.

**TRISHA RICH**

Partner  
Holland & Knight

Litigation partner Trisha Rich is co-chair of the firm's national legal profession team. She also serves as the deputy professional-responsibility



partner for the Chicago office. Her practice focuses on litigation, legal ethics and professional responsibility. Rich is part of the legal team

that petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of a man who charged that his denial of admission to the Illinois bar violated the Americans With Disabilities Act. As part of the Chicago Bar Association and Chicago Bar Foundation's joint task force on the Sustainable Practice of Law & Innovation, Rich leads a committee recommending updated rules for law firm business structures, fee sharing and lawyer advertising. She founded and coordinates the pro bono Attorney Defense Initiative to assist impaired lawyers facing disciplinary charges.

**JENNIFER ROMIG**

Partner  
Ropes & Gray

Corporate health care partner Jennifer Romig advises companies in the health care and life sciences industries, as well as private-equity funds. During



the pandemic, Romig has helped clients navigate regulatory and business issues. She counseled on privacy and compliance

practices to accommodate telehealth visits and avoid disruptions in the delivery of services. Romig advised independent primary care practice One Medical on information governance and regulatory issues around the expansion of its telehealth and virtual care offerings. Romig led a legal team advising Advocate Aurora Health on a joint venture with Taiwanese technology giant Foxconn that consolidates data and utilizes predictive analytics and AI machine learning to personalize health care. She represents asylum seekers pro bono through her work with Heartland Alliance's National Immigrant Justice Center.

**SONYA ROSENBERG**

Partner  
Neal Gerber Eisenberg

Sonya Rosenberg is a partner in the labor and employment practice group and has written extensively on COVID-related employment concerns. Recent



writings have covered federal relief legislation, the question of paid sick leave and the implications of stay-at-home orders.

In online presentations, she's addressed time off and pay, physical workplace considerations and workforce reductions. She has also written and spoken on sexual harassment and the #MeToo movement. Rosenberg is president of the Chicago chapter of the Coalition of Women's Initiatives in Law, a nonprofit that supports female attorneys. She serves as legal counsel for Step Up, a nonprofit that empowers girls from under-resourced communities to finish high school and attend college. Through the Jewish Funders Network, she has presented workshops for nonprofits on COVID-19-related employment issues.

**EXTRAORDINARY LAWYERS FOR EXTRAORDINARY TIMES**

Congratulations to our RSHC Partners recognized by *Crain's Chicago Business* among Chicago's Notable Women in Law 2020.



Valarie Hays



Sondra A. Hemeryck



Kelly M. Warner



#ProudtobeRSHC

rshc-law.com





## NOTABLE 2020 WOMEN IN LAW

### HEIDI HENNIG ROWE

Partner  
Schiff Hardin

Partner Heidi Hennig Rowe is deputy practice group leader of Schiff Hardin's construction law group. She represents REITs and other project owners, develop-



ers, and design professionals, negotiating more than \$1 billion in design and construction contracts annually.

Rowe serves as outside construction counsel for developers Equity Residential in Chicago and the Rockefeller Group in New York. In the past year, Rowe was construction counsel for Sterling Bay on Lincoln Yards, a 50-acre riverfront project. Rowe provides counsel for COVID-related claims on active construction projects and advises project owners on strategies for dealing with potential COVID-related impacts on future projects. She is a mentor with DePaul University College of Law's Women of Color Collective. For six years, she served as co-chair of Schiff's Chicago Volunteer Legal Services clinic.

### MARTHA SABOL

Vice chair  
Greenberg Traurig

The legalization of sports wagering has created a fresh focus for Martha Sabol, who is co-chair of Greenberg's global gaming practice and vice chair of the



firm. She has advised clients with gaming operations on how they can incorporate online wagering into their businesses. Additionally,

she has connected international clients looking to break into the U.S. sports wagering market with other domestic clients to take advantage of the opportunity. Sabol joined Greenberg Traurig in 2006 from Hyatt Gaming Management, where she was vice president and general counsel. Sabol is co-chair of the firm's Women's Initiative and created the Good-to-Great Program, a selective six-month intensive business development series for high-potential female lawyers. Earlier, she organized the firm's first Women's Business Forum, an annual summit and networking event.

### LEAH SCHLEICHER

Partner  
Neal Gerber Eisenberg

At Neal Gerber Eisenberg, Leah Schleicher is co-chair of the hospitality and leisure practice group and a member of the real estate practice group. In the past



18 months, Schleicher has represented a food and beverage holding company selling a food supply company for \$2 billion. She

also represents a real estate developer that sold the residential component of a mixed-use project as well as an acquisition, which involved negotiation of a construction loan and management agreement. With the onset of the pandemic in April, Schleicher provided detailed guidance to businesses seeking rent relief. She is co-chair of Neal Gerber Eisenberg's diversity and inclusion committee and associate review committee. She was a board member of the Domestic Violence Legal Clinic and served as president for two terms.

### ERIN SCHRANTZ

Partner  
Jenner & Block

Erin Schrantz is a partner covering investigations, compliance and defense. She leads internal investigations and represents clients in Justice Department,



SEC and congressional proceedings and advises clients on compliance assessments and strategies. Schrantz led the compliance team for

the monitor of Credit Suisse AG after the bank's \$715 million settlement with the New York Department of Financial Services, part of a broader \$2.6 billion settlement. She also served as team lead conducting an investigation into faulty ignition switches at General Motors. As a member and former co-chair of the Women's Forum, Schrantz promoted programs to support working parents and created a mentor program to advance junior female partners to equity. As a member of the diversity and inclusion committee, she promoted the use of metrics to progress toward objectives.

### EILEEN SETHNA

Partner  
Levenfeld Pearlstein

As a member of Levenfeld Pearlstein's banking and restructuring practice group, Eileen Sethna handles transactions and distressed credits while also



counseling borrowers and lenders. She advises banks, financial institutions, hedge funds, real estate investors and business owners in

underwriting, reorganizations, workouts and other matters. Sethna joined Levenfeld last year from Chuhak & Tecson, where she was principal and banking practice group leader and led a 28-attorney team. Since 2006, Sethna has represented the office of the Illinois state treasurer and was appointed as a special assistant attorney general. Sethna serves on the advisory board and the women's board at Misericordia Heart of Mercy, a nonprofit that supports individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Recently, she was appointed to the Special Olympics of Illinois board.

## ROPES & GRAY

congratulates the following partners on their recognition as *Crain's* Notable Women in Law for their outstanding accomplishments in the Chicago area:



Deborah Gersh



Laura Hoey



Deborah Monson



Paulita Pike



Jennifer Romig

ROPES & GRAY  
ropesgray.com



**MOLSHREE SHARMA**

Partner  
Feinberg Sharma

Molshree Sharma is a founding partner of the firm specializing in divorce and family law. Sharma mediates and litigates family disputes and handles custody



and child abduction cases. She handles international custody disputes and Hague Convention cases related to a treaty that resolves issues of child abduction and jurisdiction. Sharma has lectured on the Hague Convention and child abduction in Rio de Janeiro, London and Israel. She is scheduled to speak at a family law conference in Singapore next year. And she lectures annually for the groups I Stand Parents Network and Bring Our Kids Home. She has provided pro bono services to women at the Cook County Jail. She has mentored law students through the Asian American Bar Association and South Asian Bar Association.

**EMER SIMIC**

Partner  
Green Griffith & Borg-Breen

Litigator Emer Simic guides clients through intellectual property issues at the woman-owned IP boutique firm and specializes in pharmaceutical patents. Simic



represents Texas-based QuVa Pharma in a trade-secret case brought by competitor Par Pharmaceutical. And she was counsel for Horizon Pharma in proceedings related to its drug that treats urea-cycle disorders in babies. Simic joined Green Griffith in 2017 from Leydig Voit & Mayer. She co-chairs Green Griffith's marketing committee and has promoted diversity and inclusion. She serves on the Chicago chapter board of the Coalition of Women's Initiatives in Law and is co-chair of the coalition's community outreach committee. She participates in mentoring programs organized by the Intellectual Property Owners Association Women in Law committee and the Coalition of Women's Initiatives.

**KIMBERLY SMITH**

Partner  
Katten

As co-chair of Katten's global mergers and acquisitions/private-equity group, Kimberly Smith leads a middle-market practice of 100 attorneys who



handle leveraged buyouts, joint ventures and recapitalizations. She represents Chicago-based PE firms including Next-Gen Growth Partners, North Branch Capital and Pflingsten Partners as well as family offices. In 2018, she represented PE firm Chicago Pacific Founders in its acquisition of veterinary centers in Northern California. This year, Smith spearheaded a survey that found the pandemic heightened PE interest in the animal care field and that animal care firms were more open to private equity. Smith rejoined Katten in 2015 after spending five years at Paul Hastings. She is part of Katten's Women's Leadership Forum's national mentoring panel and serves on the Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago board.

**TERESA SNIDER**

Partner  
Porter Wright Morris & Arthur

Teresa Snider is co-chair of the reinsurance arbitration and litigation practice group, responsible for strategy, managing the group's attorneys and providing



training. She handles arbitration hearings and court cases related to coverage and allocation, late notice, misrepresentation and claim handling. Snider has promoted arbitration as an alternative dispute resolution mechanism. She participated in a videotaped webinar providing an overview of arbitration for insurance professionals, discussing common disputes involving reinsurance contracts, the difference between arbitration and litigation, and the stages of arbitration. Snider practiced for 25 years at Butler Ruben Saltarelli & Boyd, which was merged into Porter Wright last year. She is on the Porter Wright compensation committee. Snider co-chairs the annual Women in Reinsurance event that she and two partners started in 2004.

**NATALIE J. SPEARS**

Partner  
Dentons US

Natalie J. Spears heads Dentons' global technology, media and telecommunications sector. Recently, she represented 15 news organizations, winning a motion



to unseal court records in the high-profile case of actor Jussie Smollett. On behalf of the Chicago Tribune, Spears won a motion to unseal a search warrant affidavit in the federal prosecution of Ald. Ed Burke. For the Reporter's Committee for Freedom of the Press, she filed an amicus brief opposing the Chicago police union's bid to destroy disciplinary files that was rejected by the Illinois Supreme Court in July. Spears helped relaunch Dentons' women's resource group to create a support network and hone rainmaking skills. She has co-chaired the National Immigrant Justice Center's Human Rights Awards for the past three years, including leading a virtual fundraiser in June.

**WE SALUTE ALL 2020 NOTABLE WOMEN IN LAW HONOREES AND ARE ESPECIALLY PROUD OF OUR RECOGNIZED ATTORNEYS.**

Jeri, Lindsey and Loretto, you set legal precedents, advocate for your clients, innovate within your field, mentor the next wave of women in law, and give back to your respective communities. We feel privileged you have chosen to practice with us.



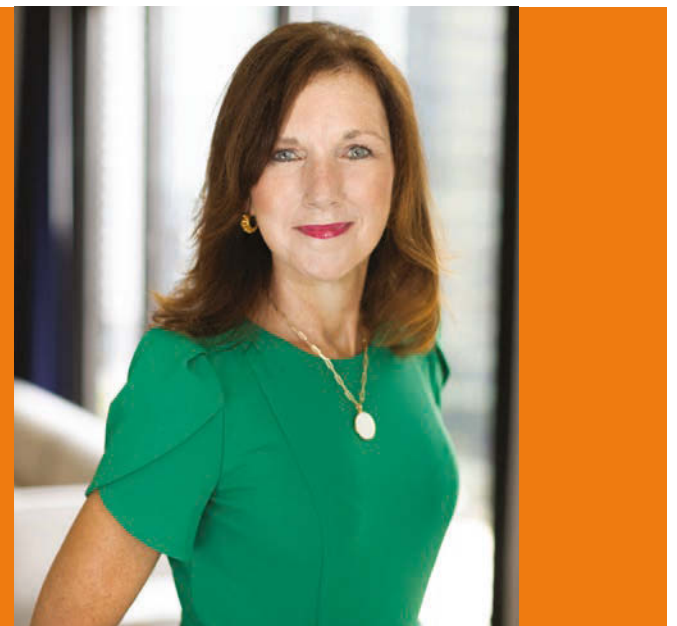
**Jeralyn Baran**

"Representing both employers and employees provides me with a heightened sense of what each side is looking to accomplish in Employment issues."



**Lindsey Paige Markus**

"I love working creatively and proactively with families and business owners to secure their financial future and legacy."



**Loretto Kennedy**

"I am honored when the first call my client makes after a dramatic issue occurs is to me. This is why I practice law."



## NOTABLE 2020 WOMEN IN LAW

### KATHERINE L. STABA

Partner  
K&L Gates

At K&L Gates, Katherine L. Staba is a partner in the technology transactions and data protection practice. She handles cases involving digital media planning



and buying, advertising and marketing, claim substantiation, software licensing, unfair competition and trade secrets. She represented the owners of Chicago cloud technology consultancy Maven Wave in its sale to French multinational Atos that closed this year. She also advised Coty on a collaboration with actress Lili Reinhart. In March, Staba co-authored a piece explaining how companies could expedite their internal review procedures for advertising and social media content so they could be more responsive during uncertain times. Staba rejoined K&L in 2017 after serving as corporate counsel at Amazon Web Services. She also worked at Publicis Groupe and Dentons.

### TANYA STANISH

Partner  
Schiller DuCanto & Fleck

Divorce and family law attorney Tanya Stanish handles cases for high-net-worth individuals that typically involve business, trust, valuation and executive



compensation issues. Clients include executives, entrepreneurs, doctors, lawyers and professional athletes. Stanish has a potentially precedent-setting case pending before the Missouri Supreme Court involving a client who sued her ex-husband for fraud in the inducement of the divorce settlement agreement. Stanish joined Schiller DuCanto & Fleck in 2008 from Jenner & Block, where she was a divorce and family law partner. She shares insights on family law issues in local TV interviews. And she guides associates to argue in the courtroom, take depositions and be proactive to build their skills. Stanish is a longtime supporter of the Cradle, an Evanston adoption agency.

### LIISA M. THOMAS

Partner  
Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton

At Sheppard Mullin, Liisa M. Thomas leads the 60-lawyer global privacy and cybersecurity team. She has helped clients navigate privacy and data



breach disclosure issues and implement privacy programs such as biometric policies and corporate data use guidelines. Clients include

Arby's parent Inspire Brands and the Merchandise Mart. Thomas is publishing her second book, "Thomas on Big Data: A Practical Guide to Global Privacy Laws," a tool for in-house counsel. Her first book is a guide to handling data breaches. Thomas joined Sheppard Mullin in 2017 from Winston & Strawn. She's an adjunct professor at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law and is vice chair of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra board. She plays violin in the Chicago Bar Association Symphony Orchestra, made up of lawyers and judges.

### KARI TIMM

Partner  
BatesCarey

As cyber team practice lead, Kari Timm has been involved in headline-grabbing breaches that rock companies and consumers. With an escalation of ransom-



ware attacks this year, Timm has worked with clients to triage claims and ensure that the appropriate response team is called into action. She

also has evaluated and assessed multimillion-dollar business interruption claims, which have been on the rise. She counsels clients on developing privacy laws such as the Illinois Biometric Information Privacy Act and the California Consumer Privacy Act. With an uptick in class-action lawsuits, Timm has assisted clients in assessing coverage and liability. She joined BatesCarey in 2015 from Walker Wilcox Matousek, where she was a partner. Timm serves on the cyber legal and claims subgroup of Lloyd's of London's International Underwriting Association.

### DIANA TSAI

Member  
Dykema Gossett

For more than a decade, Diana Tsai has served as assistant practice group leader of Dykema's corporate finance practice, which consists of more than 10



percent of the firm's attorneys. During the pandemic, Tsai has worked with banking clients to develop COVID-19 amendments,

PPP consent letters and related documentation for use in loan facilities. She provided guidance on implications for loan documents and procedures, including notarization. In April, she led a panel discussion on loan modifications and PPP loan forgiveness. In her practice, Tsai represents a range of lenders and structures loan transactions, including asset-based and cash-flow financing. She handles restructuring, workouts and liquidations and represents middle-market businesses in mergers and acquisitions and corporate governance matters. Tsai serves on the Dykema Chicago building committee.

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**BRINKS GILSON & LIONE**  
100 YEARS OF IP LAW

**THE WAY FORWARD**

**100 YEARS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW**

**BRINKS CONGRATULATES OUR WOMEN ATTORNEYS RECOGNIZED AMONG THE 2020 CRAIN'S NOTABLE WOMEN LAWYERS**

**WE APPLAUD**

**BETSY DERWINSKI, LAURA LYDIGSEN AND VIRGINIA MARINO**

**FOR THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS, LEADERSHIP, AND COMMITMENT AS WOMEN TRAILBLAZERS IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW**

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC | SHENZHEN, CHINA



**MELISSA VENTRONE**

Member  
Clark Hill

As a leader of the cybersecurity, data protection and privacy team, Melissa Ventrone focuses her team on management to minimize damage by limiting



public or regulatory fallout. Ventrone co-chairs Asset360, an interdisciplinary group of lawyers and staff that handles cyberse-

curity and data privacy. Over the past 18 months, Ventrone has mitigated attacks and assisted companies by responding to ransomware attacks. She has saved clients millions of dollars through negotiations with those holding data and systems hostage. Ventrone joined Clark Hill in 2018 from Thompson Coburn, where she was a partner and chair of the data privacy practice team. Ventrone served in the Marine Corps Reserve for 21 years, including as company commander of a 200-person unit and executive officer of a 329-person company deployed to Afghanistan.

**KIM WALBERG**

Partner  
Taft Stettinius & Hollister

Kim Walberg is a partner in Taft's commercial litigation practice group. With the advent of video gaming, Walberg became a pioneer in video gaming litigation,



setting industry precedent in the area of the enforceability of precense contracts between video terminal operators and establishments.

Walberg has challenged local taxes that threaten the gaming industry's profitability. Last year, she represented the Illinois Gaming Machine Operators, which joined with the Illinois Gaming Board to successfully defend a challenge to the structure of the state's gaming law. Walberg serves on Taft's executive and diversity and inclusion committees. She's a member of Taft's new Inclusion Task Force to combat racism in the wake of George Floyd's killing. And she is coordinator of Taft's program to assist associates from diverse backgrounds with sponsorship and career development.

**KELLY WARNER**

Partner  
Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila

At Riley Safer, Kelly Warner maintains a commercial litigation and white-collar practice. She serves as deputy general counsel of the firm and is a



member of the marketing, technology and professional practice committees. Warner is representing an individual who spent 30

years incarcerated for a crime he did not commit and is litigating against a nursing home chain's former executives for civil RICO claims. She was an assistant special prosecutor appointed to investigate police officers in connection with the shooting of Laquan McDonald. Warner joined Riley Safer as a founding partner in 2016 from Schiff Hardin. She is a director of the Chicago Bar Foundation and chair of the grants committee, where she oversees the distribution of funds annually to legal aid and pro bono organizations.

**DONNA WELCH**

Partner  
Kirkland & Ellis

Partner Donna Welch focuses on litigation involving breach of fiduciary duty, fraud, conspiracy, civil RICO and other disputes. Welch is national counsel



for Allergan in thousands of opioid cases and is on the defendant's steering committee for federal multidistrict litigation. Welch was

co-lead counsel in a Wisconsin case involving breach of fiduciary duty, fraud and conspiracy claims arising out of a scheme involving corporate fraud and kickbacks. She obtained a \$203 million verdict, the largest civil verdict recorded in Wisconsin. Welch is on the Chicago office pro bono committee, operations committee and associate review committee. She's a member of the Housing Opportunities for Women Leadership Council. And she has served on the boards of Business & Professional People for the Public Interest and Leadership Greater Chicago Fellows Association.

**ANNA WERMUTH**

Member  
Cozen O'Connor

Anna Wermuth is vice chair of Cozen's Labor & Employment Department and represents employers in litigation and labor relations matters. She also



established a practice representing colleges and universities in faculty, staff and student litigation. Wermuth is leading de-

fense of a Fair Labor Standards Act collective action involving the novel question of whether notice of action should be issued to class members who agreed to arbitrate their claims on individual basis. Wermuth joined Cozen O'Connor in 2015 from Meckler Bulger Tilson Marick & Pearson, where she was management-side labor and employment litigation partner. She is management vice chair for the ABA Labor & Employment Law Section's National Trial Advocacy Competition. Wermuth serves on the board of Chicago Youth Centers. She's a frequent speaker at conferences.

**BATESCAREY CONGRATULATES**

**KARI TIMM**

**AS A NOTABLE WOMAN IN LAW**

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## NOTABLE 2020 WOMEN IN LAW

### MARY WILSON

Managing partner  
Dentons US

Mary Wilson, Dentons' first female U.S. managing partner, also is a national finance and health care specialist. In her managerial role, Wilson helps oversee the firm's Golden Spike initiative launched earlier this year, incorporating law firms from Indianapolis and Pittsburgh in a dual partnership model that allows lawyers to be members of their current firm and the new national partnership. Wilson teamed with Dentons' diversity and inclusion director for an initiative that assigns a diversity partner to each practice group for transparency in assignments and promotions. This year, Wilson helped design a mentoring program that pairs board members with associates from diverse backgrounds. In her practice, Wilson advised Dignity Health on \$6 billion in debt consolidation in connection with the 2019 deal closing that created CommonSpirit Health.



### GRETCHEN WOLF

Partner  
Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom

Litigation partner Gretchen Wolf specializes in government enforcement and white-collar crime. Recently, she represented J.P. Morgan Securities in resolving a class action that alleged a conspiracy to manipulate the market for government bonds.



And she represented JPMorgan Chase Bank in antitrust litigation arising out of an alleged conspiracy to manipulate foreign exchange rates. Wolf established herself as an expert on electronic discovery issues and writes on the topic. As co-chair of the firm's Global Women's Initiatives Committee, Wolf spearheaded the development of a firmwide virtual mentoring and networking program for newer female partners. She is on the Chicago diversity committee and is partner mentor to Skadden's LGBTQ+ affinity group. Wolf serves on the boards of the National Immigrant Justice Center and the Chicago Foundation for Women.

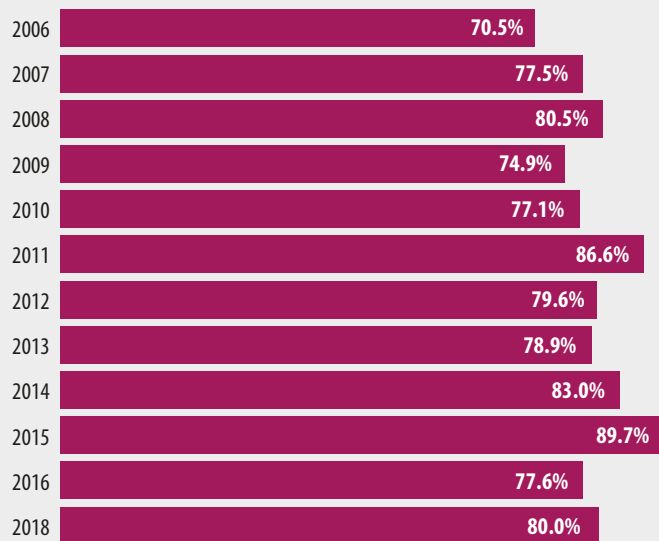
### NORMA ZEITLER

Partner  
Barnes & Thornburg

Norma Zeitler serves as employment and litigation counsel to nonprofit, health care, hospitality and manufacturing clients. Drawing on her background as an intelligence officer, she conducts harassment investigations. During the pandemic, Zeitler has counseled clients on novel legal issues, including canceling national conferences, analyzing whether businesses could continue operations amid shutdown orders, and keeping workers safe. She has been advising boards, CEOs and HR professionals on social justice issues growing out of the Black Lives Matter movement. At the firm, Zeitler helps oversee associate performance and development and aids in committee efforts to promote racial justice. Before becoming a lawyer, Zeitler was a U.S. Army officer, serving as a company commander in Turkey during Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm and as an intern to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.



### FEMALE LAWYERS' WEEKLY SALARY AS A PERCENTAGE OF MALE LAWYERS' SALARY



### Women in the federal judiciary

Representation of female judges in U.S. federal courts

**33.3 percent**

of the seats on the Supreme Court are held by women.

**36.8 percent**

of the seats on the Circuit Court of Appeals are held by women.

**34.0 percent**

of Federal District Court judges are women.

Note: The report omitted 2017 data.

Source: American Bar Association's "A current glance at women in the law," April 2019

# Katten



Katten is proud to congratulate our partners

**Laura Keidan Martin, Leslie D. Minier and Kimberly T. Smith**

on their recognition as *Crain's*

2020 Notable Women in Law in Chicago.

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