

LAW WEEK

COLORADO

Law Week Names Nine Top Women Lawyers for 2010

What does it take to make *Law Week's* list of top women lawyers? Great legal skills, well-roundedness and "standing out in the crowd" all are important factors. So, too, are legal excellence displayed and battles fought, particularly since the last time we accepted nominations. It's always a tough call, and the finalists are also exceedingly well qualified. | LAW WEEK PHOTO LARRY LASZLO, COMEDIA



Karma Giulianelli

BARTLIT BECK HERMAN PALENCHAR & SCOTT

When some of the country's biggest companies are up against really big lawsuits, they rely on Bartlit Beck Herman Palenchar & Scott partner Karma Giulianelli to defend them.

In the last year, Giulianelli has represented DuPont in a successful products liability appeal and helped Tyco settle class-action lawsuits for far less than the amount plaintiffs sought, which in one case was more than \$1 billion.

"Her specialty is large, big-ticket commercial litigation," said Jason Peltz, an attorney with the firm's Chicago office who has worked with Giulianelli on several cases. "What's impressive about Karma's career is that it spans so many

different areas of the law and so many industries." While Giulianelli has handled RICO cases and is considered an expert in antitrust law, Peltz said, "the DuPont

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case was product liability, and the Tyco case had securities issues.”

In the DuPont case, 27 Costa Rican fern farmers sued the chemical company in Florida state court, seeking \$396 million

for damage to their crops allegedly caused by DuPont's Benlate fungicide. Giulianelli was part of a trial team that got directed verdicts in DuPont's favor in the biggest

claims. After a 10-week trial, the jury returned a \$24 million in plaintiffs' verdicts for the other claims.

"Karma really was the key player on a lot of the scientific causation issues," Peltz said.

Giulianelli also worked on the appeal, helping to "take 10 weeks of trial record and boil it down to the key instances of evidentiary error." In December, a Florida appeals court sided with DuPont, affirming the verdicts that were in its favor and reversing all verdicts for the plaintiffs. New trials were ordered, though the plaintiffs have asked for rehearing.

Peltz said her "boundless energy" was vital to getting through the appeals process.

"I've worked with her for 10 or 12 years, and she has the same enthusiasm and energy for the cases and the issues now as she had her first month at the firm," he said. •

— Matt Masich, mmasich@circuitmedia.com