

# MOST INFLUENTIAL WOMEN LAWYERS IN CHICAGO

Welcome to the inaugural edition of The Most Influential Women Lawyers in Chicago, a special custom content section from Crain's Custom Media.

The 60 women featured alphabetically in these pages represent an impressive cross-section of the Chicago-area legal community. Many of them have practiced with distinction for decades, while others are on-the-rise attorneys making their mark.

Some have helped set new legal precedents at the U.S. Supreme Court while others have developed winning legal theories that have become standard in state and federal courts. All make it a point to mentor other women lawyers and to give back to their community in myriad ways.

Every one of the profiles in this section is drawn from the nomination materials submitted, and no lawyer paid to be featured. But because this honor is bestowed only upon lawyers for whom nominations were submitted, this year's list is not comprehensive.

We trust that as this Most Influential list becomes a new tradition in the Chicago legal community, the pool of potential honorees will continue to grow. Meanwhile, enjoy reading about the achievements of what is a truly impressive first class, and please join us in congratulating them.

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## Baker McKenzie.

Congratulations to all of the  
**2017 Most Influential Women  
Lawyers in Chicago.** Baker McKenzie  
is proud to have **Christina Conlin,**  
**Maura Ann McBreen** and **Olivia Tyrrell**  
among this year's distinguished honorees.



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**MOST INFLUENTIAL WOMEN LAWYERS IN CHICAGO**

**KATHRYN KOVITZ ARNOLD**

Partner; Chair - Real Estate Practice Group and Condominium Practice Group  
Taft Stettinius & Hollister



Kathryn Kovitz Arnold chairs the real estate practice at Taft Stettinius & Hollister. She also heads the firm's condominium practice. Her wide-

ranging real estate practice covers real estate development, commercial and residential condominium development and conversion, mixed-use projects, restaurants, leasing, mixed-use high-rise development, vertical subdivisions and separations, and commercial financing. A recent focus has been condominium de-conversions. Arnold has been lead counsel on several large projects which de-converted, including the acquisition of all condominium units in Bel Harbour, a 30-story, 207-unit residential high-rise overlooking Belmont Harbor in the Lakeview neighborhood, by Strategic Properties of North America for \$51.5 million. She also led the acquisition of Clark Place condominium tower in Lincoln Park by Strategic Properties for \$35 million, and the de-conversion to apartments. She has worked on projects for such iconic Chicago properties as the John Hancock Center and River City private residences. She is active in Commercial Real Estate Executive Women of Chicago, a group dedicated to advancing the power and success of women in commercial real estate.

**NICOLE NEHAMA AUERBACH**

Founding Partner  
Valorem Law Group



After concluding that the billable hour model for pricing legal services needed to change, Nicole Nehama Auerbach helped form Valorem

Law Group in 2008 to give clients an alternative. Valorem went from being one of the few firms created to provide alternative fee arrangements (AFAs) for commercial litigation, to being named one of the 22 Firms Best at Delivering AFAs by BTI Consulting in 2017 (along with such powerhouse firms as Kirkland & Ellis, Morgan Lewis and Seyfarth Shaw). Auerbach is a frequent speaker and writer on topics related to AFAs, innovation and the impact of the billable hour on women and minorities. In addition to her role as a thought leader on AFAs, Auerbach has had a notable year representing clients. In April, she obtained a \$13.4 million verdict in federal court against the City of Chicago and six Chicago police officers for violating the civil rights of a client (*Patrick v. City of Chicago, et al.*). She is also the co-founder and current national board chair of the Coalition of Women's Initiatives in Law.

**ELLEN M. BABBITT**

Partner; Leader - Higher Education Practice  
Franczek Radelet



In 1998, Ellen Babbitt founded a law firm devoted to higher education. At that time, few women founded law firms—and even fewer

lawyers recognized higher education law was emerging as a unique national field of practice. Since then, Babbitt and her team have devoted themselves to the needs of colleges and universities, merging their firm in 2011 with Franczek Radelet. Institutions consult with her on sensitive board, leadership, faculty and student issues. She is also a leading author and commentator on program reduction, program closure and financial exigency. Most of her practice involves confidential counseling and risk management in sensitive situations, so her success is often measured by what does not make its way into the courts or media. But recently, several institutions have consulted with her to address presidential issues, by an institution seeking a merger partner, and by multiple institutions seriously impacted by the Illinois budget crisis. Earlier this year, she joined the board of trustees of the Associated Colleges of Illinois, which funds scholarships for first-generation, low-income and disadvantaged students.

**REBECCA WEINSTEIN BACON**

Partner  
Bartlit Beck



Rebecca Weinstein Bacon has had a hand in trying some of the country's most groundbreaking civil cases in the last few years. She

led the team in *Carrera v. Bayer Corp.*, which set forth the 3rd Circuit's law on ascertainability. She argued the appeal before the 3rd Circuit that was decided in favor of her client, Bayer. This case led to a split in the Circuits that may go to the Supreme Court. It changed the face of small claims class action cases. In 2014, she tried a consumer fraud case, *In re: Whirlpool Corp. Front-Loading Washer Products Liability Litigation*, a bellwether consumer class action related to plaintiffs' claims of design defects and breach of implied warranty. After an almost month-long trial, the jury deliberated less than two hours before returning a complete defense verdict. Bacon also serves as lead trial counsel in national products liability cases. Most recently, she was chosen by Bayer to try the first Mirena bellwether trial, *Kellington v. Bayer*. The plaintiff dismissed the case just before the summary judgment hearing.

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ARE PROUD OF THE  
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**CONGRATULATIONS!**



**Susan Capra**

Hard work and Susan Capra go hand in hand. As a partner at the firm since 2000, Susan has worked exclusively on medical malpractice cases. She began her professional career as a registered nurse, working in the operating room. She furthered her career as a lawyer where she is recognized in Illinois as among the best in working up these complex cases.



**Shannon M. McNulty**

Shannon has established herself as a dynamic and hard-working lawyer, particularly in the area of consumer fraud. As a partner at the firm, she is working on numerous matters from talcum powder causing ovarian cancer to defectively designed windows that prematurely rot. Prior to Clifford Law Offices, Shannon worked for 10 years in administration with the Chicago Police Department.



**Sarah F. King**

is a leader in the area of medical malpractice where she has achieved numerous multi-million dollar results. She also works with Women Everywhere: Partners in Service helping underprivileged women and children throughout Chicago as well as the Women's Caucus of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association to promote the development and leadership of women trial attorneys.



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120 NORTH LASALLE STREET 31ST FLOOR CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602  
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We Proudly Congratulate Our Partners,  
Marcy Kott and Zora Ristanovic,  
Recipients of *Chicago's Most Influential  
Women Lawyers 2017*.

More than half of the attorneys in  
our firm are women. Like Marcy and Zora,  
they all share a passion for excellence.

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Matrimonial and Family Law Attorneys

# CONGRATS TO LP'S INFLUENTIAL IMPACTFUL WOMEN

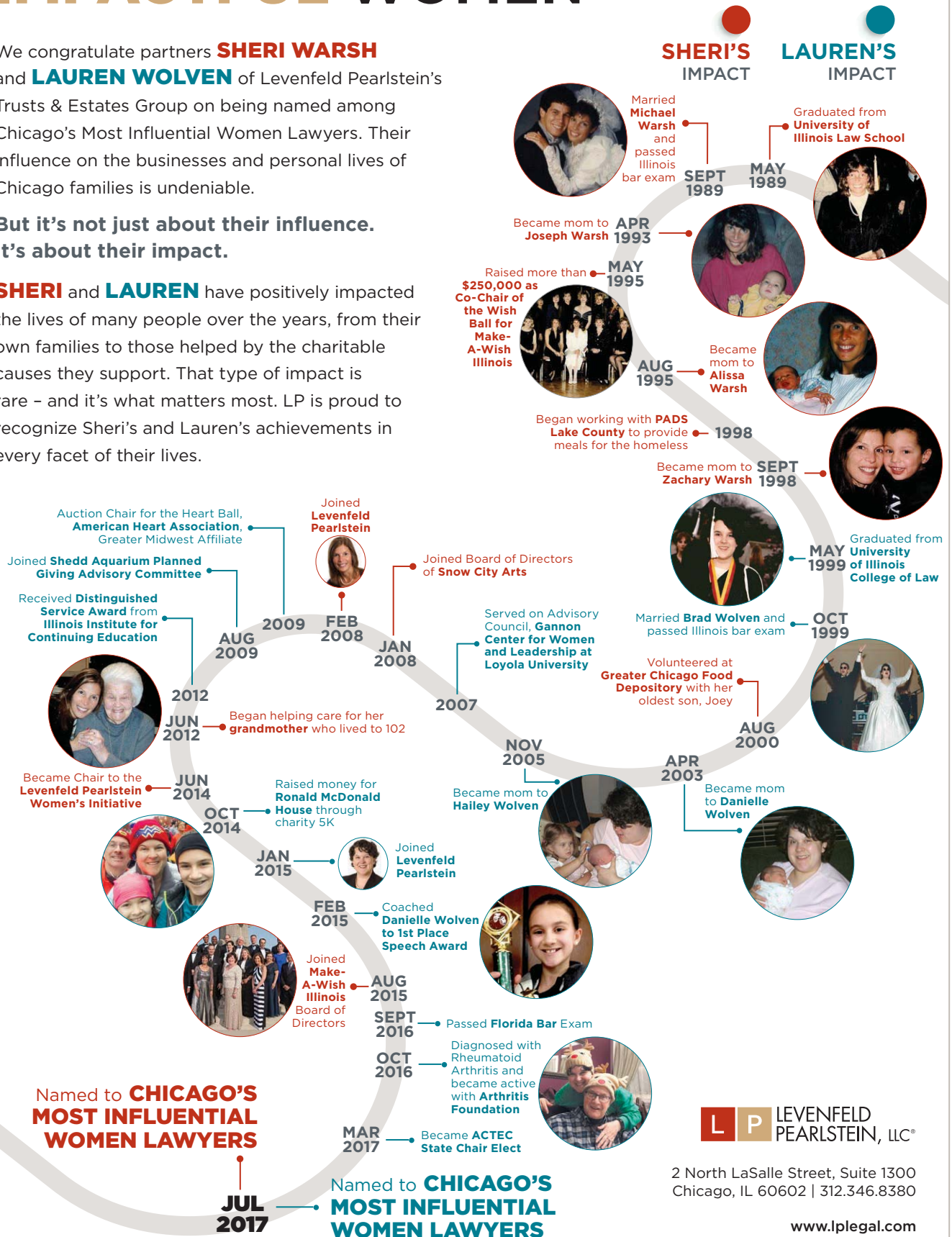
We congratulate partners **SHERI WARSH** and **LAUREN WOLVEN** of Levenfeld Pearlstein's Trusts & Estates Group on being named among Chicago's Most Influential Women Lawyers. Their influence on the businesses and personal lives of Chicago families is undeniable.

**But it's not just about their influence. It's about their impact.**

**SHERI** and **LAUREN** have positively impacted the lives of many people over the years, from their own families to those helped by the charitable causes they support. That type of impact is rare - and it's what matters most. LP is proud to recognize Sheri's and Lauren's achievements in every facet of their lives.

## SHERI'S IMPACT

## LAUREN'S IMPACT



2 North LaSalle Street, Suite 1300  
Chicago, IL 60602 | 312.346.8380

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**MOST INFLUENTIAL WOMEN LAWYERS IN CHICAGO**

**LAUREL G. BELLOWS**

Managing Principal  
The Bellows Law Group



Laurel Bellows is a preeminent business lawyer, counseling senior executives and corporations on employment, severance and

change in control agreements, internal investigations, and business disputes. She works to assure fair contracts and compensation for employees regardless of gender, race or age. She provides employers with the tools to incent employees to work productively in an environment that prioritizes diverse perspectives. As past president of the American Bar Association, Bellows has worked to develop and implement a national awareness campaign on human slavery to assure that the United States works to eradicate sex slavery and forced labor in our country. As past president of the Chicago Bar Association, she founded the Alliance for Women to combat unfair practices faced by women lawyers. Bellows received the ABA's prestigious Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement award for her advocacy and work as a change agent to advance gender equality. She currently leads the Power of the Purse initiative developed to encourage law firms to require gender and racial equality of compensation and opportunity.

**CATHY BIRKELAND**

Managing Partner - Chicago Office  
Latham & Watkins



A first-rate capital markets lawyer, Cathy Birkeland represents well-known Chicago-based companies Hyatt Hotels Corp., Ventas

Inc., TransUnion, InvenTrust Properties Corp., Stepan Co., Highlands REIT Inc., Outcome Health, Envoy Global Inc. and various Pritzker family business interests. Birkeland has particular expertise in initial public offerings. She has advised the IPOs of Chicago-based Hyatt, TransUnion, Orbitz Inc. and Click Commerce. She also has been underwriters' counsel for Blackstone Group portfolio companies' IPOs and follow-on equity offerings, including SeaWorld Entertainment Inc. In 2016, Birkeland was engaged by Ventas, a leading REIT, as primary outside counsel for capital markets and securities law matters. Over the past six months, she has led the Latham teams representing Ventas in nearly \$3 billion of securities offerings and bank financings. In May, Birkeland led Hyatt in the sale of common stock by investment funds affiliated with The Goldman Sachs Group Inc., the first registered equity offering since the company's 2009 IPO. For over a decade, Hyatt has relied on Birkeland as primary outside corporate counsel for capital markets, securities law and corporate governance matters.

**MARY CLARE BONACCORSI**

Managing Partner - Chicago Office;  
Chair - Healthcare Litigation  
Polsinelli



Mary Clare Bonaccorsi is a highly accomplished litigator serving clients in the healthcare and life sciences industries. This year, she was

named managing partner of Polsinelli's Chicago office, one of firm's largest. Bonaccorsi serves clients as a strategic advisor supporting general counsels, CEOs, compliance officers and boards of directors. She has successfully handled several recent high-profile cases, including as lead defense counsel for BioScrip Inc. in *U.S. ex Rel. Kester v. Novartis et al.* She achieved a favorable settlement of all claims brought against the specialty pharmacy in the amount of \$15 million, with no admission of liability and no corporate integrity agreement, where a similarly situated specialty pharmacy settled for \$60 million and a manufacturer defendant settled for \$390 million. She led the negotiations on behalf of her client, a publicly traded healthcare company, with the United States attorney for the Southern District of New York and 35 state Medicaid programs. The high-profile case was widely covered by the press, including *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*.

**LAURA CALDWELL**

Founding Director  
Life After Innocence



Laura Caldwell is a professor at Loyola University Chicago School of Law and founding director of Life After Innocence. This year, Caldwell

co-edited the anthology *Anatomy of Innocence: Testimonies of the Wrongfully Convicted* (Liveright). The book tells the true stories of over a dozen innocent men and women who were convicted of serious crimes before miraculously being exonerated. Each "exoneree" is paired with a high-profile mystery writer (including Sara Paretsky and Lee Child) to present the tragedy of wrongful convictions like never before. Book proceeds go to Life After Innocence, which helps exonerees begin their lives again and reclaim their rights as citizens. At the law clinic, Caldwell and her students aid men and women who have been exonerated of crimes by filing state monetary settlements, working to clear records and pursuing legislation that provides support and services. This past year Caldwell also led the legal team that got the record of exoneree James Kluppelberg cleared and expunged. Kluppelberg spent nearly 25 years in prison for arson murders that he did not commit.

# Leading By Example



Congratulations to our partners

**Terri Mascherin and Cathy Steege** on their well-deserved recognition as two of the "Most Influential Women Lawyers."

They continually demonstrate Jenner & Block's enduring commitment to our core values: excellence, diversity and inclusion, and pro bono and public service.

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**MARTHA A. SABOL**  
Co-Chair, Gaming Practice;  
Co-Chair, GT Women's Initiative

Greenberg Traurig proudly congratulates its colleague **Martha Sabol** on being named one of the **Most Influential Women Lawyers in Chicago.**

Thank you for your peerless leadership, inspiration, and commitment to paving the way for fellow women lawyers in Chicago and across the country.

*Greenberg Traurig is committed to its women lawyers' success, which includes a firm wide women's affinity group encompassing recruiting, retention, and business development. The firm regularly collaborates with like-minded organizations to address these issues on a broader scale in a variety of industries and communities. Greenberg Traurig also takes thoughtful action to address issues such as maintaining a healthy work-life balance, breaking the glass ceiling, mentoring, healthy living, and giving back to the community.*



77 West Wacker Drive | Suite 3100  
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**MOST INFLUENTIAL WOMEN LAWYERS IN CHICAGO**

**SUSAN CAPRA**

Partner  
Clifford Law Offices



A registered nurse with years of hospital experience, Susan Capra is now known for excellence in medical malpractice law. She has achieved

several multimillion-dollar verdicts and settlements handling primarily cases involving obstetrical, gynecologic and pediatric negligence. For example, she helped obtain a \$4.3 million settlement on behalf of a mother's first-born infant girl who suffered brain damage due to negligent management of her labor and delivery. She helped obtain an \$11 million settlement in another medical negligence case of a hospital's pharmacy that mixed an intravenous solution with excessive amounts of glucose, which was given to a premature newborn who then sustained brain damage. Capra also worked to help the firm obtain a \$5.8 million settlement on behalf of another mother whose infant suffered brain damage due to negligent obstetrical treatment rendered at a Chicago hospital. Most recently, she obtained a \$1.7 million settlement for a man injured by negligent bowel surgery and post-operative care. Last year alone, the cases she worked on settled or resulted in verdicts for more than \$15 million.

**CHRISTINA CONLIN**

Counsel  
Baker McKenzie



Christina Conlin, counsel in Baker McKenzie's North America international and commercial practice, is well-versed in the challenges facing

multinational corporations as they expand domestically and across borders. With nearly 20 years' experience representing business leaders from some of the world's largest food and hospitality companies, Conlin provides unique insights to clients as they navigate an increasingly complex maze of global regulatory compliance. She joined Baker McKenzie in 2016 from a senior in-house position at McDonald's, and now focuses her practice on domestic and international corporate matters, providing counsel with respect to distribution and franchising. She advises leading grocery stores, distributors and franchisors on global expansions and cross-border transactions. She also handles domestic transactional matters, advising on franchise disputes and enterprise risk management. Conlin recently advised a high-end retailer on its expansion into Asia and the Middle East, and negotiated license agreements for the expansion into those markets, helping the client pursue accelerated growth in those regions. She also recently advised a major hotel company on a large franchisee's refinancing of 100 hotels, protecting the client's interest.

**FAYE FEINSTEIN**

Chair - Restructuring, Bankruptcy and Creditor's Rights Group, Chicago office  
Quarles & Brady



Faye Feinstein has served the Chicago legal community for more than 30 years. In the past 18 months, she has achieved several

successful outcomes for her clients, including winning a bankruptcy appeal in Delaware federal district court establishing that the Illinois state insurance company rehabilitation statute is not preempted by federal bankruptcy law, thereby protecting the tax attributes of an insurance company in rehabilitation from dissipation by a Chapter 11 debtor, and preserving the tax attributes for the benefit of policy holders. In past years, she also has served as a federal-court-appointed receiver in an SEC enforcement action involving six insolvent alternative investment funds that collected over \$100 million of investor money before the receivership. As former chair of the bankruptcies and reorganizations committee, chair of the education committee, secretary, and vice chair of the Chicago Bar Association, Feinstein has demonstrated dedication to leadership and mentorship in the legal community. She also has received the Star Mentor award for exceptional mentoring of associates from Quarles & Brady, and is former chair of the National Professional Women's Networking Group.

**TACY FLINT**

Partner  
Sidley Austin



Tacy Flint is a member of Sidley's national Supreme Court and appellate practice, and clerked under Justice Stephen Breyer and 7th Circuit

Judge Richard Posner. In recent months, Flint has briefed and argued major cases before federal and state courts at all levels. She has represented clients attempting to vindicate their constitutional rights to education, clients seeking to avoid massive claims of healthcare and securities fraud, as well as contract and antitrust liability. With her extensive record in the U.S. Supreme Court, the Illinois Supreme Court, and lower courts across the country, Flint has had a major influence in Chicago's legal community. She is also active in litigation supporting fairness in legislative redistricting. Flint has filed amicus briefs in the U.S. and Illinois Supreme Courts supporting efforts to reform Illinois' process for drawing legislative district lines. Her brief in the U.S. Supreme Court, on behalf of former Gov. Jim Edgar as well as other public officials and public interest groups supporting fairness in elections, helped spur a ruling that independent redistricting commissions are permissible under the U.S. Constitution.

**Rooney Rippie & Ratnaswamy LLP**  
proudly congratulates  
our partner!

**Anne Mitchell**

*named one of the*

**"Most Influential Women Lawyers"**



R3 is a boutique energy and infrastructure, environmental, health and safety, and litigation law firm. For more information about Anne Mitchell and R3, please visit [www.r3law.com](http://www.r3law.com).

Morgan Lewis

We applaud our partner

**BETH  
HERRINGTON**

for being named a Most  
Influential Women Lawyer by  
**CRAIN'S CUSTOM MEDIA**

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**MOST INFLUENTIAL WOMEN LAWYERS IN CHICAGO**

**AMY M. GIBSON**

*Member*  
Aronberg Goldgehn Davis & Garmisa



Amy Gibson started at Aronberg Goldgehn in 2006 as a summer intern. She now co-chairs the firm's commercial litigation practice group. Her

rapid rise is a testament to her legal acumen and to the confidence she has earned from colleagues and clients. Gibson has been instrumental in growing the firm's labor and employment practice. She focuses on complex commercial litigation, including claims involving shareholder disputes, fraud, consumer fraud, breach of contract and real estate. She also defends employers in litigation and administrative proceedings involving claims by employees for discrimination, retaliation, violation of state and federal wage and hour laws, and worker misclassification. She recently completed a guide to new city and county paid sick leave rules: "Is Your Business Prepared to Comply with the Cook County and City of Chicago Paid Sick Leave Ordinances That Become Effective July 1, 2017?" For the last three years, Amy has been recognized as an Emerging Lawyer in Commercial Litigation by *Illinois Leading Lawyers*, and for 2010 through 2017 as a Rising Star in Business Litigation by *Illinois Super Lawyers*.

**MARGARET A. GIBSON**

*Partner*  
Kirkland & Ellis



Meg Gibson concentrates her practice on business transactions and counseling, with a focus on private equity/M&A and

private fund formations. As one of very few women dealmakers nationwide in the traditionally male-dominated world of private equity, she is a regular speaker on private equity and M&A matters, in 2016 giving a keynote address at the University of Michigan Ross School of Management Women Who Fund Forum. Gibson handles work ranging from forming buyout funds to complex mergers, acquisitions and dispositions. Her recent work includes leading a Kirkland team on the formation of Prairie Capital VI, the \$350 million sixth fund of Chicago-based Prairie Capital, a leading source of private equity for the acquisition of family- and entrepreneur-owned businesses. She also led the representation of Ridgemoor Equity Partners in its acquisition and related financing of Worldwide Express, Fusion Logistics and Unishippers Global Logistics to form Worldwide Express Global Logistics. The combination created the largest U.S. non-asset-based third-party logistics provider of parcel and freight services to the small- and medium-sized business segment.

**MARY VIDAL HAYS**

*Member*  
Aronberg Goldgehn Davis & Garmisa



Mary Vidal Hays focuses her practice on estate planning and intellectual property law. In her estate-planning practice, she represents individuals

as well as married and domestic couples. She is highly skilled at administering trusts and estates, preparing estate and gift tax returns, handling estate and gift tax audits, and structuring sales to defective grantor trusts. She is experienced in establishing and managing family limited partnerships and private foundations for high-net-worth clients. Hays regularly prepares, files and prosecutes trademark applications with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and under the Madrid Protocol. She is a licensed certified public accountant who previously worked as a CPA in the tax department of a large Chicago accounting firm. She has always worked with domestic couples in her practice. Before same-sex couples could marry in Illinois, she prepared property agreements, wills, trusts and powers of attorney for healthcare and property for these clients. After same-sex marriage became law in Illinois, she started working on prenuptial agreements for her gay and lesbian clients, to whom she continues to be a trusted counselor.

**ANNE GERAGHTY HELMS**

*Director and counsel - US pro bono programs*  
DLA Piper



As director and counsel for U.S. pro bono programs at DLA Piper, Anne Geraghty Helms is responsible for ensuring the firm's lawyers give back to

the community through meaningful pro bono service. Her responsibilities involve development of large- and small-scale projects, understanding legal needs of the community, and offering opportunities for in-house lawyers of client businesses to engage in pro bono as well. She also makes time to represent pro bono clients herself. As a result, lawyers in DLA Piper's Chicago office last year contributed more than 20,000 hours to serving individuals and organizations that would not otherwise have been able to afford a lawyer. A recent highlight is her development of the Rolling Meadows Domestic Violence Help Desk. Working with lawyers from three firm clients (Discover Financial Services, Allstate and Illinois Tool Works) as well as two nonprofit organizations (LAF and Between Friends), Helms developed a new pro bono initiative to serve domestic violence survivors in suburban Chicago who otherwise would have to navigate the process of obtaining a protective order on their own.



**Cozen O'Connor is proud to congratulate Anna Wermuth on being named one of the Most Influential Women Lawyers in Chicago.**

**Joseph E. Tilson**  
Co-Chair, Labor & Employment Department  
jtilson@cozen.com | (312) 474-7880  
123 North Wacker Drive  
Suite 1800 | Chicago, IL 60606  
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**BETH HERRINGTON**

Partner; Leader - Chicago Litigation Practice  
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius



When East Coast-based, 1,800-lawyer Morgan, Lewis & Bockius was looking to build its Chicago office in 2015, it wooed a hotshot litigator

from another legal giant, Chicago-based McDermott Will & Emery. Today, that Chicago office is 65 lawyers strong, and that hotshot, Beth Herrington, leads the Chicago litigation department. She is a recognized player in the world of complex commercial and class action litigation. Herrington also serves as president of the prestigious 7th Circuit Bar Association in Chicago, one of a few women to serve in that role. She is currently lead counsel representing technology and telecommunications company Securix Technologies Inc. in a nationwide class action set for jury trial in Arkansas. She was brought in by the client as lead counsel after the class was certified. Plaintiffs allege Securix wrongfully obtained exclusive contracts to provide inmate calling services to inmates at correctional facilities throughout the United States in exchange for payments to the facilities. The case involves significant legal and regulatory issues, as well as significant alleged damages, and will be watched closely by the telecommunications industry.

**JONI JACOBSEN**

Partner  
Dechert



Joni Jacobsen defends publicly traded companies and their directors and officers when they become entangled in securities class actions,

derivative litigation, SEC investigations, and corporate governance disputes. She succeeds in having most of her cases dismissed, thereby reducing her clients' discomfort and saving millions of dollars for clients and insurance carriers alike. In the minority of cases that survive through to motion practice, she takes a strategic approach in opposing motions for class certification or bringing motions for summary judgment to achieve the best possible resolution for her clients. She is currently a lecturer at the University of Chicago Law School, her alma mater, where she teaches a seminar in strategic considerations in securities litigation. She and the Dechert team won a widely lauded district court dismissal in 2009 (subsequently affirmed by the 9th Circuit) when representing Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia, Priceline.com, TheStreet.com, and 27 other public companies in the insider trading-related *In re Section 16(b)* litigation. She also has represented numerous senior executives in a wide range of securities and derivative litigation.

**MICHELLE KANTOR**

Member; Chair - Federal Government Contracting and Procurement  
McDonald Hopkins



Michelle Kantor is known nationwide for her expertise in certification and compliance for women's business enterprises, minority

business enterprises, disadvantaged business enterprises and service disabled veteran-owned businesses. Prominent women and minority business owners and other law firms regularly call on her to provide advice on certifications, appeals, compliance and proposed de-certifications. She works with large business contractors, consulting and assisting them with their compliance to ensure the greatest amount of diversity participation in private and public contracting. She also volunteers and serves as general counsel to the Federation of Women Contractors, helping the organization further its mission of advocating for women-owned businesses and women executives in the construction industry. In addition, she volunteers as pro bono legal counsel for the Elite Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Network of Illinois, and sits on the Chicago Women's Business Development Center Advisory Committee. In 2013, Kantor received the Lifetime Advocate Award from the Federation of Women Contractors for her work in promoting, counseling and advocating for women-, minority- and veteran-owned small businesses.

**KARI E. HOELTING KAPLAN**

Member  
Aronberg Goldgehn Davis & Garmisa



Kari Hoelting Kaplan concentrates on corporate transactional matters, including mergers, acquisitions and divestitures; entity formation and

governance matters; private debt and equity offerings; and contractual and general business matters. Kaplan has represented: a laser manufacturing company in the sale of assets; a transportation entity in a major internal reorganization and joint venture; private equity firms in acquisitions and divestitures, portfolio management and financing rounds; startup entities in all aspects of business, including entity selection and formation, preparation of governance documents and form agreements, and debt and equity offerings; a private electrical components company in the sale of certain intellectual property assets; healthcare clients in the sale of their practices; and clients in corporate divorce/shareholder dispute matters. She has been recognized as an Emerging Lawyer in Closely and Privately Held Business Law by *Illinois Leading Lawyers* and a Rising Star by *Illinois Super Lawyers*. She also chairs the mentorship subcommittee of the firm's women's initiative.



With over 45% women attorneys, Franczek Radelet is an enthusiastic leader in diversity initiatives and proud to recognize the immeasurable influence of both **Sally Scott and Ellen Babbitt.**

Congratulations on being named Most Influential Women Lawyers in Chicago. **You've earned it!**

**FRANCZEKRADELET**  
ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS

**MOST INFLUENTIAL WOMEN LAWYERS IN CHICAGO**

**JENNIFER KENEDY**

*Managing Partner - Chicago Office; Member - Board of Directors; Deputy General Counsel*  
Locke Lord



Last year, Jennifer Kennedy obtained a favorable settlement for her client in the Lac Mégantic train derailment cases by using an innovative

approach that marked the first time the bankruptcy process was used to settle catastrophic wrongful death, environmental and property claims. Serving as lead trial counsel, Kennedy and her team resolved on behalf of her client, a rail car manufacturer: a class action in Canada, dozens of wrongful death actions filed in Cook County, and cross-border bankruptcies in the United States and Canada stemming from the 2013 train derailment in Quebec. The claim was a \$2 billion exposure, including environmental damage, wrongful death, property damage, etc., and the settlement encompassed all parties' exposure in all capacities. Kennedy received the Best Lawyers 2017 Women of Influence award, as well as the National Diversity Council's Leadership Excellence in the Law award in 2014. In 2012, she received the Women's Bar Association of Illinois Esther Rothstein award in recognition of her leadership and efforts to empower women in the legal field and beyond.

**SARAH F. KING**

*Associate*  
Clifford Law Offices



Sarah F. King investigates and prepares complex medical malpractice cases. For example, she recently worked a trial with partner

Bradley Cosgrove involving the negligent prescription of Yasmin that gained international attention. A 37-year-old woman took the medication for less than two weeks and suffered a debilitating stroke. The jury awarded her \$13.5 million in March 2014. King also tried a case alongside partner Keith Hebeisen, leader of the Clifford medical malpractice team, in November 2013 that involved the wrongful death of a 33-year-old mother who sustained a massive hemorrhage during a C-section. Following a three-week trial, the jury returned a verdict of \$15.5 million for the family. King has been involved in the Women Everywhere: Partners in Service project, which helps women and children throughout Chicago. She also teaches a course on medical malpractice at DePaul University College of Law, and was named a 2017 Volunteer of the Year by the Illinois Trial Lawyers' Association for her work on amicus briefs to the Illinois appellate and supreme courts.

**MARCELLE R. KOTT**

*Principal*  
Berger Schatz



As a partner and principal at Berger Schatz, a firm specializing in matrimonial and family law cases involving high-net-worth

clients, Marcy Kott's practice places her at the epicenter of some of Chicago's biggest yet least-acknowledged business deals: its divorces, which regularly involve multimillion-dollar disputes and negotiations. But Kott's ascent to a leading, corner-office role in the high-stakes, and male-dominated world of Chicago divorce comes from not letting herself get caught up in the emotional jockeying and public grandstanding. Instead, Kott uses intellect, business acumen and a sharp sense of humor to gain quiet victories for her clients. She was also among the pioneers in introducing alternative dispute resolution and mediation to Chicago matrimonial law, seeking innovative ways to reduce the sometimes enormous financial as well as emotional costs of divorce litigation. With over 14 years of experience in matrimonial law, Kott has reached the top of her profession: She is a veteran of numerous trials involving multimillion-dollar claims, as well as highly sensitive personal disputes such as child custody and parental fitness.

**ANDREA KRAMER**

*Partner; Co-Chair - Gender Diversity Committee*  
McDermott Will & Emery



Andrea Kramer heads McDermott Will & Emery's financial products, trading and derivatives group. Her multidisciplinary legal practice covers

all aspects of financial transactions and derivatives, focusing on taxation, regulation, contract design, trading operations and documentation. She helps clients resolve difficult legal situations, including federal and state regulatory matters, adversarial proceedings, and tax planning and compliance issues. Her recent focus has been on federal administrative and legislative counseling; financial risk management and hedging procedures; international dispute resolution; proprietary trading policies, codes of conduct and controls; tax compliance and controversy; and insurance product designs. Kramer recently has advised clients on compliance with the Dodd-Frank rules that apply to swap dealers, major swap participants, commercial end users and financial end users. An author of several important legal works, Kramer was named one of the 50 Most Influential Women Lawyers in America by the *National Law Journal* for her "demonstrated power to change the legal landscape, shape public affairs, launch industries, and do big things."

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**LORI LIGHTFOOT**

Partner; Co-Leader - Commercial Litigation;  
Co-Chair - Committee on Diversity & Inclusion  
Mayer Brown



Lori Lightfoot is highly regarded for her legal acumen, for serving the city in various positions, and for her commitment to social justice and dedication

to police reform. One of Chicago's leading African-American attorneys and community advocates, Lightfoot has practiced law in three settings: the leading global AmLaw 100 law firm Mayer Brown (where she has practiced from 1990-1996 and from 2005-present), the City of Chicago (where, among other roles, she was general counsel and chief of staff, Office of Emergency Management and Communications; and chief administrator, Office of Professional Standards of the Chicago Police Department), and the federal government (as assistant U.S. attorney in the criminal division of the U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of Illinois). She recently represented Independent Maps in support of an amendment to the Illinois Constitution to create an independent commission to design state legislative districts to end political gerrymandering. This matter went to the Illinois Supreme Court where, in a party-line vote, the court found the amendment unconstitutional. Lightfoot also received the Federal Bar Association's 2017 Cummings Award for pro bono service.

**MARGARET MANETTI**

Associate  
Codilis & Associates



After several years in the fast-paced, trial-centric world of consumer finance litigation, Margaret Manetti was named the first supervising

attorney for Cook County at Codilis & Associates in 2016. This role placed her in charge of approximately a dozen junior attorneys to train and oversee their work product while litigating in the Circuit Court of Cook County. For the benefit of the attorneys, Manetti conducted frequent in-house seminars for colleagues on discovery skills, bankruptcy, the practical application of Illinois law in eviction court, and the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau regulations. In addition to her leadership role, she regularly contributes to the firm's trial and appellate practice groups and maintains a consistent presence in the trial court for oral argument. She has obtained favorable results in depositions, evidentiary hearings, summary judgments, arbitrations and appeals. Manetti is actively involved in the Illinois State Bar Association, and is the 2017 recipient of the ISBA's Young Lawyer of the Year Award for Cook County. She also recently joined the board of the Women's Bar Association of Illinois.

**AMY MANNING**

Partner; Chair - Antitrust, Trade and Commercial Litigation Department  
McGuireWoods



Clients turn to Amy Manning for her 25 years of experience handling criminal and civil antitrust and commercial litigation matters for

international and U.S. companies and individuals in federal and state courts and U.S. arbitration tribunals. She advises clients on antitrust issues and compliance and distribution relationships, and frequently writes and speaks on antitrust, government investigations, compliance and life sciences topics. Manning first-chairs arbitrations, trials and appeals. She was part of a McGuireWoods team that helped win a 2010 U.S. Supreme Court case, which held that the parties could not be compelled to engage in class arbitration where the arbitration clause was silent regarding class arbitration. Recently, she represented executives in several criminal antitrust investigations; represented a pharma company in an antitrust civil case; represented a food producer in a major class action; and counseled one of the largest telecommunications companies in the United States on a variety of antitrust matters. She is also a co-founder of the Chicago Women Antitrust Lawyers Network, the first professional networking group for women antitrust lawyers in the area.

**TERRI L. MASCHERIN**

Partner  
Jenner & Block



Before age 30, Terri Mascherin had delivered a closing argument in a capital murder trial, successfully saving her client from a

death sentence. Before age 45, she had saved a second client from death row, and successfully defended Illinois Gov. George Ryan's orders granting clemency to more than a dozen death row inmates against a challenge by the Illinois attorney general. Before age 50, Mascherin had two nine-digit verdicts to her credit for prominent corporate clients, and *The National Law Journal* had named her one of the 50 Most Influential Women Lawyers in America. Since then, she has added another nine-digit verdict to her count—this one a \$101 million verdict in favor of Ventas Inc., to which she later added another \$125 million when Ventas settled its claim for punitive damages. In more than 30 years with Jenner & Block, Mascherin has tried 28 cases, capturing 19 trial victories and several favorable settlements mid-trial. In addition, she served as president of the Chicago Bar Association in 2010-2011.

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**MAURA ANN McBREEN**

Partner  
Baker McKenzie



Maura Ann McBreen serves as co-chair of Baker McKenzie's North America compensation practice, overseeing more than 35 attorneys.

The practice is among the most highly regarded in the country, shortlisted for Chambers and Partners USA's Award for Excellence. McBreen has advised some of the largest employers in the Chicago area and the United States as they have undertaken transformative global transactions, providing guidance on a range of complex employment issues that arise as part of the deals. Recently, McBreen led a global team of Baker McKenzie practitioners in advising Yahoo! Inc. on the employment aspects of its reorganization and \$4.8 billion sale of its core business to Verizon. The matter spanned 15 jurisdictions globally, with McBreen overseeing the Baker employment team as it collaborated with the client's in-house team to ensure a smooth transaction. McBreen also recently led the Baker McKenzie team advising Baxter International in the spinoff of its biopharmaceutical business from its medical products business, creating the new publicly traded company, Baxalta Inc., a transaction that involved the transfer of 40,000 employees across 70 countries.

**KRISTIN BARNETTE McCARTHY**

Personal Injury Trial Attorney  
Kralovec, Jambois & Schwartz



The new president of the Women's Bar Association of Illinois, Kristin Barnette McCarthy is a personal injury trial attorney who

has tried more than 100 jury trials to verdict. She has successfully argued and achieved reversal before the 7th Circuit United States Court of Appeals, as well as in the 1st District Appellate Court, and has obtained hundreds of settlements for both individual and corporate clients after stints in the Cook County State's Attorney and Cook County Public Defender's offices. McCarthy concentrates her practice on personal injury, wrongful death, premises liability, transportation liability, nursing home abuse and neglect, and other types of catastrophic injuries. *The Chicago Daily Law Bulletin* recently named her one of 40 Illinois Attorneys Under 40 to Watch. She serves on the boards of the Women's Bar Foundation and Women Everywhere: Partners in Service project. McCarthy also serves as a mentor in the Lawyer-to-Lawyer mentoring program, volunteers as a presiding judge for the YMCA's annual national judicial competition, and participates in the judicial evaluation committee for the Bar Alliance.

**BETH F. McCORMACK**

Partner - Family Law  
Beermann Pritikin Mirabelli Swerdlove



Beth F. McCormack practices exclusively in family law matters. She is a litigator and mediator who is often appointed by judges as a child representative,

guardian ad litem and parent coordinator. With a 25-year career that focused on fierce litigation in and out of the courtroom, McCormack continuously maintained her compassion and empathy for her clients and the challenging process of divorce. It is this compassion and empathy that led her to pursue becoming a collaborative law fellow with the Collaborative Law Institute of Illinois. McCormack has worked alongside other major figures in the collaborative law community to promote adoption of the Uniform Collaborative Law Act in Illinois, which has good prospects for enactment. Generally, the collaborative process provides for no public court filings (absent final documents with little substance), meaning no offensive allegations papering a couple's public court file. This privacy has been invaluable to McCormack's clientele, including several prominent public figures. Her style has proved particularly beneficial and effective for complex family law cases involving the division of high-net-worth estates and business interests.

**SHANNON M. McNULTY**

Partner  
Clifford Law Offices



Shannon McNulty is a Chicago personal injury lawyer and wrongful death attorney who also has been the point person on all class action

and consumer fraud matters handled by Clifford Law Offices. She is involved in complex matters involving Pella Windows, the Volkswagen diesel engine fraud, concussion injuries to college students governed by NCAA rules, ovarian cancer related to talcum powder usage, and other products that have injured or killed many unsuspecting consumers. McNulty maintains her personal injury practice as well, having settled in the last year cases involving the fatal stabbing of a student at school (\$2.9 million) and a wrongfully prescribed dosage of insulin that resulted in the brain injury of a 70-year-old man (\$18 million). She also was involved in the trial of a small plane crash case at a Chicago suburban airport that killed everyone aboard. That trial resulted in a \$12 million verdict. McNulty also assists young mothers with pro bono representation in various court proceedings relating to their parental rights and their children's rights.

# Influential



Mayer Brown congratulates our partners, Lori Lightfoot and Elizabeth Raymond, and all of this year's deserving honorees on their recognition as leading women in the legal profession.

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**TRICIA MEYER**

Founder, Managing Attorney  
Meyer Law



Tricia Meyer is the founder and managing attorney of Meyer Law, a woman-owned boutique law firm specializing in helping entrepreneurs and

technology companies from startups to Fortune 500 companies in the United States and abroad. She founded the firm in Chicago in 2010 and expanded to Denver in 2013. Meyer Law helps technology startups and emerging growth companies with corporate matters, contracts, employment, protection of intellectual property and fundraising matters, and helps mid-size and large corporations with commercial contracts and playbooks. She regularly mentors at accelerators and incubators, including 1871 in Chicago, Innovation Pavilion in the Denver Tech Center and Commons on Champa in Denver, and also for several accelerator programs such as WISTEM, the female-focused accelerator at 1871, Propel Accelerator via TIE Rockies, and CO.STARTERS at the Commons on Champa. Meyer has been named Rising Star in Information Technology and Technology Transactions by *Illinois Super Lawyers*, and an Emerging Lawyer in both Computer and Technology Law and Closely and Privately Held Business Law by *Leading Lawyers*.

**JULIE MICELI**

Partner  
Husch Blackwell



Julie Miceli served as the deputy general counsel for higher education and federal student aid at the U.S. Dept. of Education, and worked as a political

appointee with the administration during the first five years of Barack Obama's presidency, after a stint as assistant attorney general for the Ohio Attorney General's Office. In her capacity as deputy general counsel, Miceli advised the secretary, deputy secretary, under secretary, assistant secretaries and agency officials on legal, regulatory and policy matters concerning the Dept. of Education's polices, programs and initiatives. She provided leadership and direction to three practice divisions within the Office of the General Counsel, including more than 50 attorneys and support staff. Upon completing her time with the U.S. Dept. of Education, she joined the Office of General Counsel at Northwestern University, advising the university on legal issues relating to campus safety, including sexual misconduct and crime reporting, financial aid, and fundraising issues including major gifts and charitable contributions. Miceli now combines these unique experiences in her representation of colleges and universities throughout the Midwest.

**KATHERINE MINARIK**

Partner  
Bartlit Beck Herman Palenchar & Scott



Katherine Minarik's practice focuses on intellectual property litigation and large commercial contract disputes. She regularly handles cases

involving hundreds of millions of dollars. Minarik's clients include numerous Fortune 500 companies, such as Gilead, Bayer, United Technologies Corp., DuPont and Walgreens. Recently, after years of representing Bayer in a contentious pharmaceutical patent case against Pfizer, Minarik's team achieved a significant summary judgment victory in the Northern District of Illinois. The court held that Bayer's patent protecting one of its leading animal health products was valid as a matter of law, shutting down Pfizer's central defenses after having knocked out Pfizer's initial invalidity defense three years prior on an earlier summary judgment motion. The case settled last fall. Last year, Minarik was elected to the American Law Institute (ALI), the leading independent organization in the United States producing scholarly work to clarify, modernize and improve the law. ALI membership is limited to 3,000 lawyers worldwide, including U.S. Supreme Court justices. She is also the immediate past president of the Coalition of Women's Initiatives in Law.

**KERRYANN HAASE MINTON**

Managing Partner - Chicago Office  
Michael Best



Since Kerryann Haase Minton became Chicago office managing partner in 2010, the number of professionals in Michael Best's

Chicago office has grown by nearly 70 percent. Minton also serves on the firm's management committee, and is a leader in its labor and employment practice group. When Michael Best Chicago outgrew its space in 2016, Minton helped design a new one with an eye toward promoting teamwork and equality, giving all lawyers offices of the same size and placing conference rooms and group workspaces where corner offices would be. She was highlighted as a Woman of Influence by the *Chicago Business Journal* in 2015, and was named a Female Powerbroker by *Law360* in 2014. Her commitment to client service was honored in the Lexology Client Choice Awards (2013 - 2014), where she was the exclusive winner in the Illinois labor and employment category.

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**ANNE W. MITCHELL**

Partner  
Rooney Rippie & Ratnaswamy



Anne W. Mitchell is a dynamic litigator and leader in energy efficiency. She represents Nicor Gas Co. in matters relating to regulatory

approval and implementation of its multi-year energy efficiency plans. In 2016, she negotiated a settlement with key stakeholders and obtained regulatory approval of a nearly \$100 million portfolio of programs to begin this year. With the general assembly's passage of The Future Energy Jobs Act in December 2016, Mitchell provided counsel in addressing significant changes, including obtaining regulatory approval to extend existing energy efficiency plans and incorporate public sector and income qualified programs. Mitchell represented The Southern Co., AGL Resources Inc. and Nicor in obtaining regulatory approval of a corporate reorganization, which authorized Nicor to become a subsidiary of The Southern Co. The Illinois Commerce Commission approved the reorganization in June 2016. Mitchell advises clients on a variety of leading-edge issues facing the natural gas industry, including energy efficiency portfolio standards. She is also a member of the Women's Bar Association of Illinois and the Chicago Bar Association's Alliance for Women.

**LINDA K. MYERS**

Partner  
Kirkland & Ellis



Linda Myers focuses on debt financing transactions for private equity groups, commercial lending institutions and major private and public

companies. She has been responsible for financings in connection with major leveraged buyouts, public offerings, working capital financings/refinancings and restructurings. Myers has long-term relationships with Chicago-area businesses including United Airlines, Zebra Technologies, Nuveen Investments and SIRVA. Her recent work includes representing Caesars Entertainment Operating Co. on financing aspects of the company's \$18 billion restructuring, and advising Energy Future Holdings Corp. and its subsidiaries Texas Competitive Electric Holdings Co. (TCEH) and Energy Future Intermediate Holdings Co. on financings related to its complex Chapter 11 case. TCEH emerged from Chapter 11 in 2016, when it spun-off to senior creditors in a landmark tax-free transaction that shed more than \$33 billion in debt. The financing totaled more than \$5 billion. Myers has been recognized as one of *Crain's Chicago Business*' 20 Most Powerful Women in Chicago Business. The Women's Bar Association of Illinois honored Myers in 2015 with a Women of Achievement award.

**MARGO WOLF O'DONNELL**

Shareholder; Chair - Diversity Committee  
Vedder Price



Margo Wolf O'Donnell is a shareholder in the litigation and labor and employment groups at Vedder Price. She is the past president and current

chair of the President's Council of the Coalition of Women's Initiatives in Law, a legal association with attorneys from more than 70 member law firms and 30 corporations in Chicago. The coalition, which supports women's success in the legal profession, more than doubled in size under O'Donnell's leadership, as well as introduced memberships to attorneys in-house at corporations and expanded to New York. Based on her successes with the coalition, last year Vedder Price selected O'Donnell to chair its diversity committee. In one year, she founded Vedder Price's women's initiative, Women at Vedder or WAVES; founded the first diverse attorneys' affinity group at the firm; developed a championship program for diverse attorneys; and created programming for the attorneys to recognize and address implicit bias and work to promote and support women attorneys. In 2014, *Law Bulletin Publishing Co.* selected her for its inaugural 40 under 40 Hall of Fame edition.

**CAMILLE A. OLSON**

Partner  
Seyfarth Shaw



As part of a unique collaboration between four competing law firms and HP's in-house legal team, Camille A. Olson recently served on

the trial team for HP that secured a jury verdict for their client in excess of \$3 billion, the largest jury award in California history. Seyfarth's HP trial team was later honored by *FT Innovative Lawyers of North America* with the Innovation in Collaboration award, a category created to recognize innovation that takes place when competition is set aside for cooperation on behalf of the interests of clients. Olson also was nominated by a group of sitting federal district court judges to serve on the National Fair Labor Standards Act Discovery Protocols Committee, to work with a small group of management and plaintiffs' attorneys drafting mandatory early discovery disclosures for FLSA cases. She has served as chairperson of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's equal employment opportunity subcommittee since 2013, was named one of the Top 10 Employment Litigators in the Country by *Legal 500*, and was the first woman president of the University Club of Chicago.

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Codilis & Associates, P.C. was built on a foundation of commitment to service and innovation. The firm is honored to support Margaret and her dedication to advocacy for women in the workplace.

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**NANCY OLSON**

*Partner; Head - Chicago Office Real Estate Practice Skadden*



Nancy Olson has expertise in real estate investment trust (REIT) formation, structuring and related transactions, real estate financings,

portfolio and single-asset acquisitions and dispositions, joint venture transactions, private equity investment, real estate fund formation and investment, leasing, distressed asset workouts and reorganizations and real property development. She represents both lenders and borrowers in connection with her real estate finance practice. Olson has led many high-profile and transformative transactions, including both domestic and foreign assets and complex cross-border aspects. For instance, she led the largest real estate transaction announced in 2014, representing the Government of Singapore Investment Corp. (GIC) in its \$8.1 billion acquisition of a portfolio of industrial properties from Blackstone. The acquisition transaction was named PERE's Global Deal of the Year and North America Deal of the Year for 2014. In addition to cross-border real estate transactions, Olson is a leader in the senior living sector. She also is one of Skadden's preeminent real estate partners for M&A deals and has been the lead real estate advisor for numerous billion-dollar transactions.

**ELIZABETH S. PERDUE**

*Partner Holland & Knight*



For more than 30 years, Elizabeth Perdue has helped employees and owners of closely held companies take advantage of the ESOP, or employee

stock ownership plan. From the firm's Chicago office, Perdue co-leads Holland & Knight's ESOP team, one of the top ESOP practices in the United States. Perdue and her team have provided legal guidance to companies, trustees, selling shareholders and lenders on hundreds of ESOP transactions across the United States, including 66 in 2016 with an aggregate value of more than \$1 billion. Perdue and her team closed approximately 20 ESOP transactions during the first half of 2017, including one valued at \$325 million. Perdue is recognized nationally for her knowledge of ESOP transactions and was a pioneer in the field of ESOP lending. She is a frequent speaker and author on the topic, and she hosts an annual conference at Holland & Knight that brings together lenders to discuss common issues they face in financing ESOP transactions. The ESOP Association and the National Center for Employee Ownership often call on her to speak at their conferences.

**KRISTEN PRINZ**

*Principal; Managing Partner The Prinz Law Firm*



Kristen E. Prinz is an employment lawyer and business counselor. She worked for a firm for two years before launching Prinz Law in 2009. She

started it out of her home office, with the belief that her work should always be consistent with her values. The firm, which values diversity, integrity and creativity, now has seven employees and she continues to be the sole owner. Recently, Prinz successfully litigated an appeal before the Illinois 2nd District Court, where she argued that a retaliatory discharge claim merited an award of punitive damages. She successfully litigated a case against a major medical device company on behalf of an executive who reported product safety defects that put the infant and children population at risk. The jury awarded nearly \$10 million, but the court remitted the award and the defendant appealed. The 2nd District Court issued its final ruling in June 2017. The court reversed the jury's verdict as to the defamation claim, but affirmed as to the retaliatory discharge claim and remanded for a new trial as to damages only.

**ELIZABETH RAYMOND**

*Co-Leader-Global Corporate & Securities; Co-Leader-Financial Institutions M&A Mayer Brown*



Elizabeth Raymond is among a handful of women lawyers who lead the most sophisticated, high-value M&A deals for the world's largest

financial institutions. Last year, she advised Wells Fargo & Co. in its \$32 billion acquisition of the commercial distribution finance and vendor finance business of GE Capital Corp. With a deep understanding of financial products, Raymond's unique skillset bridged the gap between the vernacular of financial institution businesses and M&A. With Raymond at the helm, Wells Fargo negotiated and announced this enormously complex transaction on an extremely tight timeline—just one month. Raymond has also been advising traditional financial institutions in acquiring fintech startups, a hot market trend. She recently advised Ally Financial in its acquisition of the assets of BlueYield Inc. and BlueHarbor, providers of online auto loan aggregation services, which will enable Ally to build a direct-to-consumer digital lending platform. Raymond also leverages her extensive knowledge of financial products to help financial institutions raise capital. Over the last 18 months, she handled more than \$8 billion in structured finance deals.



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**ZORA RISTANOVIC**

Partner  
Berger Schatz



Zora Ristanovic's strengths as a family law attorney lie in her ability to analyze complex financial matters and equally complex and emotionally fraught custody issues. Beyond her representation of high-net-worth individuals, Ristanovic is dedicated to public service. She recently handled a pro bono case with Freedom Now, interviewing witnesses with the U.S. State Dept. in Tashkent regarding the arbitrary detention and torture of an Uzbekistani citizen on whose behalf Ristanovic drafted a complaint before the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. The UN group found the citizen's rights were violated. Last year, Ristanovic lobbied for Congressional support of legislation to provide funding for aid for international development projects which would benefit women in maternal health and reproductive rights programs. With Human Rights Watch Chicago, she lobbied Illinois legislators for proposed legislation to abolish the sentencing of juvenile offenders to mandatory life without the possibility of parole. She is also a certified rape counselor and has volunteered as a media advocate with Rape Victim Advocates, providing counseling to survivors of sexual assault at Chicago emergency rooms.

**MARTHA A. SABOL**

Co-Chair - Global Gaming Practice; Co-Chair - Global Women's Initiative  
Greenberg Traurig



Martha A. Sabol focuses her practice on gaming regulatory and business law, representing national and international casino owners, operators and suppliers in the areas of regulatory compliance, acquisition, licensure, internal investigation matters and corporate counseling. Prior to joining the firm, Sabol was vice president, general counsel, secretary and chief compliance officer of Hyatt Gaming Management Inc., which owns, manages, and consults with casinos in the United States and abroad. Recently, Sabol coordinated a team of Greenberg Traurig lawyers to organize a preferred legal service provider program for a large gaming company, combining the skills of more than 20 lawyers across the firm in all practice areas. The program is a cutting-edge approach to providing legal services to large, complex international companies. In 2016, she served as president of the International Association of Gaming Advisors, the largest association of leading U.S. and international gaming executives, attorneys and financial advisors. *The Best Lawyers in America* named Sabol Chicago's Lawyer of the Year in Gaming Law in 2015.

**DALIAH SAPER**

Principal Attorney  
Saper Law Offices



Daliah Saper operates a cutting-edge internet and social media law practice that regularly leads local and national media outlets to solicit her commentary on emerging internet law issues involving cyberbullying, sexting, catfishing, revenge porn, anonymous online defamation, user-name squatting, privacy and the latest business decisions made by social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Since founding Saper Law Offices in 2005, she has been named a 40 Under 40 by *Law Bulletin Publishing Co.*, a Rising Star by *Super Lawyers* nine years in a row, and has been repeatedly recognized as a leading media and entertainment lawyer by Chambers and Partners. In addition, Saper writes the "Ask Daliah" column for the *American Bar Association Journal*, answering reader questions about building a 21st-century law firm. For the past seven years, she also has taught entertainment and social media law at Loyola University Chicago School of Law.

**STEPHANIE SCHARF**

Managing Partner  
Scharf Banks Marmor



In 2012, Stephanie Scharf founded what has become Chicagoland's largest women-owned law firm, Scharf Banks Marmor, certified both as a Women Business Enterprise and by the National Association of Women and Minority-Owned Law Firms. Scharf represents corporate clients on complex matters including commercial disputes, insurance coverage for corporate policyholders, class actions, product liability defense, environmental torts and employment defense. By combining her skills as a practicing lawyer and a Ph.D. in behavioral sciences, she is known for developing original research and best practices to advance women in the law. Her original study, *First Chairs at Trial: More Women Need Seats at the Table*, has recently been the focus of multiple legal gatherings, including a large regional conference hosted by the chief judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, in the Chicago federal courthouse. This year, Scharf initiated a new set of research projects, part of an American Bar Association presidential initiative, *Achieving Long-Term Careers for Women in the Law*, designed to stop the exodus from the legal profession of women lawyers.

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Congratulations to Julie Miceli on being named one of the Most Influential Woman Lawyers in Chicago. Julie brings keen insights, innovative strategies and deep experience to her counsel of public and private institutions of higher education.



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**SALLY J. SCOTT**

Labor and Employment Partner  
Franczek Radelet



Sally J. Scott concentrates exclusively on representing management in both the private and public sectors in all aspects

of labor and employment law. In recent months, she represented Township High School District 211 as it faced national scrutiny and litigation over transgender student access to bathrooms and locker rooms. In addition, Scott recently helped Navy Pier Inc. navigate a strike from a Teamsters local union against a service provider that threatened to stop food, wine and beer deliveries to the most highly visited destination in the Midwest. She obtained relief from the National Labor Relations Board and stopped the union from directing its dispute at Navy Pier and the restaurants and vendors on the property. In another matter, Scott ensured CPS schools were open and staffed on May 1. The Chicago Teachers Union had threatened to engage in a one-day walkout on May 1, leaving schools without staff and students without a day of education. She aggressively pursued the issue with the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Board, which found the threatened walkout was likely illegal.

**KIMBERLY T. SMITH**

Partner; Co-Chair - Nationwide Private Equity Practice  
Katten Muchin Rosenman



Kimberly T. Smith is a leader in the evolution of healthcare services M&A. As investor interest in the space increases, acquirers find themselves in

an uncertain regulatory environment and a shift from fee-for-service models to outcome-based structures. As her clients navigate these challenges, Smith implements creative deal structures to provide additional deal flow and prepare for the future landscape of healthcare services. For instance, she works with Bolingbrook's ATI Physical Therapy, the leading provider of research-based rehabilitation services, to handle complex deals that bring ATI's services directly to health systems. After establishing the joint ventures, Smith represents them in acquiring other physical therapy businesses, such as last year's acquisitions by a joint venture between ATI and a healthcare provider in South Carolina. She has represented ATI in more than 30 acquisitions, including a 33-clinic practice last year. In addition, Smith advises clients from a wide range of industries, including distribution and manufacturing, business services, consumer, technology and financial services. Last year, she was named a Mergers & Acquisitions and Antitrust Trailblazer by *The National Law Journal*.

**LESLIE M. SMITH**

Partner  
Kirkland & Ellis



As a prominent leader of Kirkland's litigation practice, Leslie Smith stands out for her long-lasting client relationships and significant

trial wins. Over her 30-year career at Kirkland, Smith has established herself as a "go-to" attorney for some of the firm's most significant clients. As a member of Kirkland's 15-member global management committee, she is a key decision-maker in a firm of 1,900 attorneys worldwide. She concentrates her practice on class action, consumer fraud, commercial and antitrust litigation. For instance, Smith recently served as a key member of a team defending clients Baxter Healthcare Corp., Scientific Protein Labs, and American Capital Ltd. in more than 1,000 product liability cases alleging personal and economic injury resulting from the receipt of contaminated Heparin products. The multidistrict litigation court granted summary judgment on several categories of causation claims, resulting in the dismissal of hundreds of cases. Based on the generic summary judgment ruling and the results in two jury trials, most of the remaining cases were favorably resolved as well.

**CINDY SOBEL**

Partner  
Bartlit Beck Herman Palenchar & Scott



Cindy Sobel focuses on complex financial litigation—both for plaintiffs and defendants. Before practicing law, she was an accountant and tax

consultant for PricewaterhouseCoopers in Chicago, where she worked in the international tax and transfer pricing groups. She uses her accounting background to simplify complex financial issues in cases where she represents accounting firms, hedge funds, insurance companies and private equity firms. For instance, Sobel has been representing a mutual insurance company suing an investment bank based on its investments in residential mortgage-backed securities. She has also been representing multiple hedge funds who sued a Chicago-based pharmaceutical company related to a failed merger agreement. Sobel has demonstrated a strong commitment to community service as well. In 2006, she set up a domestic violence clinic in collaboration with the City of Chicago. Through that clinic, lawyers were trained to represent victims of domestic violence in obtaining emergency and plenary orders of protection. The domestic violence clinic still exists and has been used as a model by other large law firms in Chicago.

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Partner / Real Estate

Skadden is pleased to congratulate **Nancy Olson** on her recognition as one of Chicago's Most Influential Women Lawyers.

We proudly support Nancy's contributions in both the real estate sector and in her advancement of women's initiatives in the legal industry.

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Thompson Coburn congratulates Rhonda Thomas and all those honored as the Most Influential Women Lawyers in Chicago



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

**MOST INFLUENTIAL WOMEN LAWYERS IN CHICAGO**

**CATHERINE L. STEEGE**

Partner  
Jenner & Block



Catherine L. Steege's string of litigation successes have had far-reaching impacts on bankruptcy law. Her results include:

protecting benefits of 40,000 retired employees of American Airlines; achieving a nine-figure trial judgment in a dispute involving a failed Illinois casino; and successfully arguing before the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Wellness International Network v. Sharif*, to resolve a constitutional question over the authority of the nation's nearly 1,000 federal bankruptcy judges and federal magistrate judges. Steege, who co-chairs the firm's restructuring and bankruptcy and bankruptcy litigation practices, recently co-led representation of Frederick Grede, Sentinel Management Group's liquidation trustee, in an ongoing \$1 billion-plus investment advisor fraud case. Steege and the Jenner & Block team prevailed three times in the 7th Circuit, which adopted the firm's arguments concerning a \$300-plus million fraudulent transfer claim against the lender. The case involved precedent-setting avoidance actions involving complex "safe harbor" and customer property issues. To date, more than \$500 million has been recovered for Sentinel's creditors.

**MORGAN L. STOGSDILL**

Partner  
Beermann Pritikin Mirabelli Swerdlove



Morgan L. Stogsdill, who focuses her practice primarily on matrimonial law and family law, this year became the youngest equity partner in

Beermann's history and only its second female equity partner, having worked her way up from associate. Her book of business includes some of Chicago's most prominent CEOs and public figures. In 2016, the *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin* selected her as one of 40 Under 40 attorneys to watch in Illinois. Stogsdill also has been named a Rising Star in Family Law by *Super Lawyers*, and an Emerging Lawyer by *Leading Lawyers*. Stogsdill serves as a board member of the Lawyers Lend-a-Hand to Youth organization that supports at-risk children, and in 2015 co-chaired the group's My Hero awards. Stogsdill has litigated over 45 trials and has settled hundreds of cases. In fact, she had the third most jury verdicts or jury trials of any attorney in Cook County in 2006-07, per the *Jury Verdict Reporter*.

**CAMILLA B. TAYLOR**

Senior Counsel  
Lambda Legal



In 2009, when Camilla Taylor was recognized as one of the *Crain's Chicago Business* 40 Under 40, she had just won a unanimous decision in *Varnum*

*v. Brien*, striking down Iowa's ban on same-sex marriage -- the first state in the Midwest and only the third state in the country to do so. Since then, she served as national marriage project director of Lambda Legal, during which she litigated the freedom to marry in Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, New Jersey, West Virginia and North Dakota until 2015, when the U.S. Supreme Court finally secured marriage equality for the rest of the nation in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, in which Taylor was also counsel. When Taylor said we would see marriage equality in our lifetime, she wasn't just hopeful, she was onto something. Taylor has recently dedicated herself to protecting *Obergefell* from attack and making sure that courts and institutions implement the landmark ruling fairly. She was also a key architect of Lambda Legal's organizational response to the new administration, outlining the federal protections for LGBT people and policies most vulnerable to attack, and the strategy necessary to protect them.

**RHONDA THOMAS**

Partner  
Thompson Coburn



Throughout her long career as a public finance attorney, Rhonda Thomas has built a national reputation for leading complex, large-scale

projects for public- and private-sector clients. These projects frequently include innovative, first-of-their-kind financing elements that contribute significantly to project funding and ensure clients have a solid financial footing for decades to come. Recently, Thomas led work on the following transactions: as disclosure counsel for the City of Chicago's \$1.9 billion O'Hare Airport refunding bonds, which constituted the largest bond issue in the city's history; as disclosure counsel on the general airport revenue bonds, which will fund the proposed O'Hare International Terminal expansion project and restructure the airport's debt; as underwriters counsel and disclosure counsel for Chicago Public Schools in more than \$2 billion in general obligation bonds issued by Chicago Public Schools; and assisted with complex procurement issues related to CTA's purchase of \$1.3 billion of railcars to be delivered in 2019-20. Thomas has been recognized as a Corporate Woman of Achievement by the National Association of Women Business Owners, among other honors.

**Michael Best**

CONGRATULATES



**Kerryann Haase Minton**

Chicago's Most Influential Women Lawyers

Kerryann has built her success on passion for the law and commitment to Michael Best clients on a business and personal level. Her hard work and dedication to the firm, clients, and our community is a direct reflection of what sets Kerryann apart from her peers.

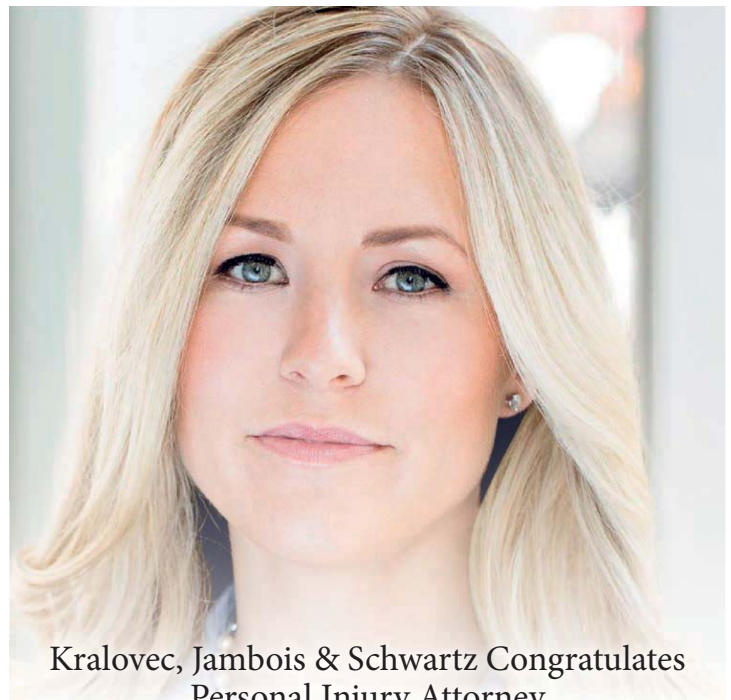
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Kralovec, Jambois & Schwartz Congratulates  
Personal Injury Attorney

**Kristin Barnette McCarthy**

for being named one of  
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**OLIVIA TYRRELL**

Partner – Corporate and Securities Practice  
Baker McKenzie



Olivia Tyrrell is a top M&A dealmaker in the healthcare industry, having advised some of the world's largest companies on billion-dollar

mergers and acquisitions, many of which have reshaped the global healthcare landscape. At the height of the healthcare M&A boom two years ago, Tyrrell advised on \$28 billion worth of transactions in a 16-month period, often leading teams of hundreds of Baker practitioners around the world. In the last year, Tyrrell has served as lead adviser to Walgreens Boots Alliance on its joint venture with Prime Therapeutics, a first-of-its-kind partnership that includes a new retail pharmacy network agreement and the combination of the companies' central specialty pharmacy and mail service businesses. In addition, she recently led a Baker team advising Johnson Controls on all international aspects of the \$4.4 billion spinoff of its global automotive business. Currently, she is working on three antitrust-mandated divestitures as part of the Abbott-Alere merger. Tyrrell has been named a 40 Under 40 by both the *National Law Journal* and *Crain's Chicago Business*.

**SHERI E. WARSH**

Partner – Trusts and Estates  
Levenfeld Pearlstein



Sheri E. Warsh concentrates her practice in estate, gift and income-tax planning and business succession planning. She works with high-

net-worth clients on wealth preservation and planning. Among her recent high-profile matters has been the estate planning for stakeholders of a privately held healthcare technology company that sold to a Fortune Global 500 company for more than \$1 billion. She recently worked with a client with \$20 million worth of classic cars to develop a strategy for the future sale, storage and maintenance of the vehicles. She also was engaged by a prominent matrimonial attorney to work on the complex estate issues in the divorce of an exceptionally wealthy Chicago couple. Last year, Warsh led an RFP process that culminated in the firm landing its largest estate planning client—a sixth-generation family with active ownership in a closely held business, and significant interest in a publicly traded business. The family's assets exceed \$700 million. Levenfeld Pearlstein, a midsize firm with 70 attorneys, competed with more than 20 law firms, including several of the nation's largest, for the engagement.

**ANNA WERMUTH**

Vice Chair – Labor & Employment Dept.;  
Co-Chair – Higher Education Industry Group  
Cozen O'Connor



Anna Wermuth represents employers in employment-related class and individual discrimination claims, wage and hour actions, National Labor

Relations Board proceedings, and non-compete cases. She has become a "go to" legal resource for the higher education industry. Serving such prestigious Chicago institutions as the University of Chicago, Northwestern University, DePaul University and Roosevelt University, Wermuth co-leads the firm's nationally recognized higher education industry group. In the wake of a widely publicized case in which she, as co-lead trial attorney, secured a unanimous NLRB decision dismissing a unionization petition brought by football players at Northwestern University, this past year has seen Wermuth serving as chief negotiator for several schools in their collective bargaining negotiations. She also represents universities in union organizing campaigns and strategic planning efforts to address, for example, the recent nationwide push by the Service Employees International Union and other unions to organize adjunct faculty. She is also currently the relationship partner for three national clients, Allstate Insurance Co., Caesars Entertainment Corp. and JPMorgan Chase & Co., where she oversees a full team of outside counsel.

**LAUREN J. WOLVEN**

Partner – Trusts and Estates  
Levenfeld Pearlstein



A significant number of leaders at Chicago's best-known companies are clients of Lauren Wolven. She manages the tax and legal issues surrounding

her clients' personal wealth, that of their families, and in many instances, their closely held businesses. She concentrates on estate planning, wealth protection, estate and trust administration, tax and succession planning for privately held businesses, and trust and estate litigation. She also represents individuals and financial institutions in estate and trust administration and controversy matters. In addition, Wolven works extensively with foundations and other charitable organizations on administration, tax and planning issues. Recently, this has included advising a Chicago-based family-owned auto parts manufacturer on a challenging, \$100 million-plus sale to a private equity firm. She also represented a major philanthropic organization in its conversion of a charitable trust to an endowment. Wolven is a leader in the drafting of estate plans for the modern family, including issues related to inheritances for posthumously conceived children and other estate planning issues raised by the development of reproductive technologies. She is also a key industry voice on fiduciary risk management.

# Congratulations Michelle Kantor

We are proud to honor Michelle and recognize her tireless work encouraging, mentoring, counseling, advocating and promoting women, minority, and veteran-owned companies.



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**Nicole Auerbach. Influential? Sure.**

But so much more. Inspirational. Leader. Mentor. Muse. Partner. Visionary.

But most of all, she is our friend.

Congrats Nic.

This recognition is richly deserved.

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