

## Letter from the Women's Committee Chairs



Maripat Alpuche  
Partner



Laura Twomey  
Partner

Inspired by the extraordinary accomplishments of women athletes at the 2016 Summer Olympics, we decided to focus this edition of the *Women's Connection* on women in sports. We feature two prominent women in sports: alumna **Val Ackerman** (STB '85-'87), the Commissioner of the Big East Conference, and Simpson Thacher Litigation Counsel **Jayma Meyer**, who also teaches sports law as a visiting clinical professor at Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs.

A number of Simpson Thacher alumnae hold high-ranking positions at leading sports organizations such as the Major League Baseball (MLB) Players Association, the National Football League (NFL), and the National Basketball Association (NBA), including: **Heather Chase** (STB '02-'05), Assistant General Counsel at the MLB Players Association; **Julia Gaffin** (STB '09-'12), Counsel at the Office of the Commissioner of Baseball; **Meghan Cannella Carroll** (STB '07-'14), Assistant Labor Relations Counsel at the NFL; and **Tatia Williams** (STB '90-'93), Vice President, Business and Legal Affairs at the NBA.

Here at Simpson Thacher, women attorneys are "star players" who continue to rise to the highest levels of Firm leadership. Corporate partner **Marni Lerner** was recently named Head of the Firm's market-leading global Private Equity Mergers and Acquisitions Practice, and litigation partner **Lynn Neuner** is now one of the Firm's two Administrative Partners.



Hui Lin

We are also delighted to announce the election to partnership of **Hui Lin**, a corporate associate in the Firm's New York office. Hui focuses her practice on capital markets, securities and corporate governance matters. We are also pleased to announce the elevation to Senior Counsel of **Jennifer Nadborny** (Public Company Advisory Practice) and the elevation to Counsel of several women associates: **Yafit Cohn** (Public Company Advisory Practice); **Marjory Ding** (Capital Markets); **Gena Hatcher** (Personal Planning); **Catherine Kidd** (Private Funds); **Julia Kohen** (Funds Finance); and **Shari Ness** (Public Company Advisory Practice).

In recognition of the Firm's commitment to advancing women lawyers, the Women in Law Empowerment Forum ("WILEF") awarded Simpson Thacher with the prestigious Gold Standard Certification for the fifth time in June 2016. Qualifying for the WILEF gold standard requires meeting rigorous criteria involving the percentage of women equity partners and the number of women lawyers involved in firm governance and compensation determinations, among other factors.

We wish you and yours the happiest of holiday seasons, and a prosperous and successful new year.

—Maripat Alpuche and Laura Twomey

# Val Ackerman:

## Scoring Points as Commissioner of the Big East Conference



“Even if you leave the Firm, the network of the Firm never leaves you.”

It's hard to believe, but **Val Ackerman** (STB '85-'87)—now the esteemed Commissioner of the Big East Conference—once struggled to get her foot in the door as a sports lawyer.

A former college-level and professional basketball player, Val attended UCLA Law School with her heart set on pursuing a career in sports law. Little did she realize just how difficult it would be to break into the field. After unsuccessfully scouring the market for sports-related legal work, Val decided to spend a couple of years burnishing her resume and developing broad-based legal skills at a top Manhattan law firm. Val soon landed a position as a corporate associate at Simpson Thacher.

The newly-minted UCLA Law School graduate never could have expected that her two years at Simpson Thacher would ultimately shape the course of her professional and personal life. During her short time at the firm, Val honed her legal skills working on a wide range of corporate transactions. She also met and married her husband, **Charlie Rappaport** (STB '75-'08), who was a tax partner at the time. After her wedding, Val left the Firm and once again attempted to find a position in sports law.

This time around, however, Val had the benefit of two years of Simpson Thacher training under her belt, as well as access to the Firm's

extensive network of contacts. It did not take long before Val had a lead on a job at the National Basketball Association (NBA), thanks to a tip from fellow STB alumnus **Bill Jemas Jr.** (STB '83-'85). At the time, Bill was Assistant General Counsel at the NBA, but he was just getting ready to transition to the NBA's business affairs department. Bill's imminent departure created an opening in NBA's legal department—and Val proved to be the perfect fit for the job.

Val could not have imagined a better way to combine her legal background with her personal passions. Over the next eight years at the NBA, Val worked in a myriad of areas, including as Special Assistant to then-NBA Commissioner David Stern. Among other highlights, Val served as a liaison for the 1992 Dream Team, which included legends like Magic Johnson, Larry Bird, Michael Jordan, and Patrick Ewing. It was “probably the finest basketball team ever put together,” Val recalls.

In 1996, led by Val, the NBA threw its support behind the U.S. women's Olympic basketball team, which began its unstoppable gold medal streak that continued this past summer in Rio. After the 1996 Olympics, the NBA decided the time was right to launch the Women's National Basketball Association (the “WNBA”), and named Val the WNBA's President. For Val, it was the “job of a lifetime”—one that presented a game-changing opportunity to raise the profile of women's sports. The WNBA's instant popularity far exceeded the NBA's expectations: average crowds at the WNBA games more than tripled the NBA's projections.

In 2005, after almost a decade heading up the WNBA, Val stepped down to spend more time with her two young daughters. For the next several years, Val juggled family time with

a number of different professional pursuits, including teaching at Columbia University, serving as President of USA Basketball (2005-2008) and the U.S. representative to the International Basketball Federation (2006-2014), and writing columns for espnW, the division of ESPN focusing on women's sports (2005-2013). Val had never dreamed that she would ever put her full-time work on pause, but she has since accepted that careers do not always progress along a straight line. "You may have to zig-zag from time to time," she says, "and create your own breaks."

By 2013, when her daughters were a few years older, Val felt ready to get back in the game, so to speak. When she was given the opportunity to become the Commissioner of the Big East Conference, Val jumped at the chance.

At the time Val took over as Commissioner, the Big East Conference had just undergone a major realignment in which non-football playing colleges had separated from football-playing schools. The new Big East Conference, which competes in NCAA Division I in 22 sports other than football, was in many ways a startup organization that Val had to build from the ground up, doing everything from hiring new staff members to settling into new office space to developing a new website. Val also had the difficult task of creating a whole new reputation for the newly reorganized Big East Conference.

In the three short years since, Val's hard work and visionary leadership have enabled the Big East Conference to regain its former glory. The conference now represents more than 3,000 student athletes on over 180 teams. This past April, the Villanova Wildcats—one of the Big East's teams—won the NCAA men's basketball championship. The headline-making victory generated tremendous positive press for Val and the Big East Conference.

Val's entire career has been filled with gold medals and championship wins, and she was recently named one of the ten most powerful women in sports by *Forbes*. Throughout her extraordinary career, however, Val has never forgotten that Simpson Thacher is where she got her "professional start." Val looks back on her "two very impactful years" at the Firm as a time when she had an "incredible opportunity to develop a full array of legal skills," and the chance to learn from "great lawyers" who helped to shape her career.

Equally valuable to Val were the sports connections she made through her Simpson Thacher contacts. It was these connections that "really helped" to further her career even years and years after she had left the Firm. "Going to Simpson Thacher is like attending a great university," explains Val. "Even if you leave the Firm, the network of the Firm never leaves you."



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stblaw.com to let us know if  
you've changed jobs, taken on a  
new role at your organization  
or have other professional  
news to share.

# Jayma Meyer:

## Advocating for Equal Access to Athletic Opportunities for Women and Girls Under Title IX



“My work in sports law has been focused on creating a fair playing field for women in sports.”

Simpson Thacher Litigation Counsel **Jayma Meyer** will never forget the last time she went for a competitive swim. It was at the 1972 Olympic Trials. Back then, Jayma was one of the world’s top-ten ranked butterfly swimmers.

Despite her record-breaking race times, Jayma did not make the cut for her high school swim team because she happened to be the wrong gender. “There were absolutely *no* high school sports teams for women when I went to school in the late 1960s in Indiana,” she explains. “I tried to convince the coach of the boys’ swim team to at least let me join them for practices, but he absolutely refused because he knew I could beat the boys.”

Undeterred, Jayma began training with a renowned national swim coach in Florida during her summer breaks. The coach assigned her workouts she could do entirely on her own during the school year. “Every morning, my mother would drive me down to the Y at 5:30 in the morning,” Jayma remembers. “I would swim for two hours all by myself, and then my mom would drive me to school.”

Upon graduating from high school, Jayma tried out for the 1972 U.S. Women’s Olympic Swimming Team but narrowly missed the cut. She then had a decision to make: she could either focus on swimming or attend college. Jayma opted to pursue her undergraduate

education at Indiana University. While the school had one of the best men’s swim teams in the country, there was no swim team for women. So Jayma gave up her dream and stopped swimming entirely.

Years went by, and Jayma built a successful career as an antitrust lawyer at Simpson Thacher. She represented leading corporations in obtaining regulatory approval for mergers and acquisitions, and defended clients in litigation involving allegations of price fixing, monopolization and other restraints of trade. But as she rose through the ranks at Simpson Thacher, Jayma began thinking more and more about using her legal skills to level the playing field for female athletes.

In 2015, Jayma joined the Board of the Women’s Sports Foundation, a nonprofit organization founded by tennis legend Billie Jean King. The Foundation aims to create women leaders by giving girls access to sports opportunities. That same year, Jayma also joined the Board of the National Women’s Law Center (“NWLC”), and began working with the NWLC on matters involving Title IX, a federal statute enacted in 1972 that mandates gender equality in every federally funded educational program, including sports. Ironically, Title IX was signed into law the very same year that Jayma gave up swimming.

Unfortunately, Title IX arrived far too late to change Jayma’s world. She explains that it took quite a few years for the law to “really take effect” for female athletes. Jayma points out that in 1978, *five years* after Title IX was enacted, **Val Ackerman** (STB ’85-’87) (profiled on pages 2 through 3) was still one of only a handful of women to receive a college athletic scholarship. (Val split the University of



Virginia's one and only scholarship for women's basketball with another student.)

Title IX has brought about tremendous progress for women in sports over the last few decades, but Jayma has seen firsthand just how much work remains to be done to ensure equality for female athletes. For the past several years, Jayma has worked with Fair Play for Girls in Sports, a division of the Legal Aid Society's Employment Law Center, as well as the California Women's Law Center, on litigating pro bono Title IX challenges at the high school level in California. Palo Alto-based litigation partner Buzz Frahn and a number of the Firm's associates have worked closely with Jayma on these cases. To date, the team has successfully negotiated Title IX compliance with all of the school defendants, including the Pasadena Unified School District, Santa Paula High School in Ventura County, and Clayton Valley Charter High School.

Jayma's pro bono engagements have focused on underserved schools where minority girls are disproportionately disadvantaged. "It is in these communities that sports have the greatest potential to generate social change," says Jayma, who is a huge believer in the power of sports to teach young girls self-confidence.

Through her pro bono efforts, Jayma has become a leading authority on sports law issues. She now teaches sports law and public policy as a visiting clinical professor at Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs. She also consults on a broad range of issues impacting student athletes, including sexual assault, and she regularly lectures and organizes conferences on Title IX, amateurism, and other ethical issues in sports. Jayma is an active member of the Sports Lawyers Association, and she is involved with a number of sports advocacy groups and sports-focused bar association groups.

Interestingly, Jayma explains that there are many parallels between her sports law work and her antitrust engagements. "Antitrust law is all about creating a fair economic playing field for corporations," she says. "And my work in sports law has been focused on creating a fair playing field for women in sports."

Looking back, Jayma derives great satisfaction from the arc of her career. While she missed out on the chance to pursue her passion for swimming in the Olympics, her work in sports law has helped her pave the way for so many women and girls to have access to potentially life-changing athletic opportunities.



## Alumnae Notes

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*An update on notable alumnae career developments.*

### *In-House and Corporate*

- **Linda Barrett** (STB '10-'16; Executive Compensation and Employee Benefits): Senior Corporate Counsel, Franklin Templeton Investments
- **Juliana Capata** (STB '15-'16; Corporate): Senior Corporate Counsel, Workday, Inc.
- **Jae Won Lee Chung** (STB '11-'16; Corporate): Counsel, Capital Research and Management Company
- **Elizabeth Ferrell** (STB '06-'09): Associate General Counsel, Infrastructure at Facebook
- **Rae (Adams) Gyasi** (STB '09-'16): Vice President and Assistant General Counsel, JPMorgan Chase & Co.
- **Naomi Hung** (STB '14-'16; Corporate): Vice President, Legal Division of Goldman Sachs Asset Management
- **Reece Hunt** (STB '10-'12; Corporate): Associate General Counsel, Motivate International Inc.
- **Kanchana Wangkeo Leung** (STB '02-'04; Litigation): Chief Legal Officer, Chief Compliance Officer, and Chief Operating Officer for investment adviser Gilead Capital LP
- **Michelle Morad** (STB '12-'16; Intellectual Property): Corporate Counsel, Amazon Lab126
- **Jodie Pimentel** (STB '07-'14): Counsel, Technology Transactions, Delos Living LLC
- **Lexie Pitney** (STB '09-'16): Global Investigations Counsel, Xylem Inc.
- **Kirsten Popoff** (STB '13-'16; Corporate): Vice President of Legal Affairs, SHL Investment Group (USA)
- **Ulrike Schwarz-Runer** (STB '98-'99; Tax): Partner - Global General Counsel, The Boston Consulting Group
- **Judith A. Selby** (STB '97-'98; Litigation): Managing Director, BDO Consulting
- **Elizabeth Shutkin** (STB '12-'16; Litigation): Vice President and Assistant General Counsel, JPMorgan Chase & Co.

- **Sayo Kondo Takizawa** (STB '10-'16; Corporate): Vice President, Legal & Compliance, The Blackstone Group
- **Lauren S. Yoon** (STB '09-'14; Corporate): Vice President of Business & Legal Affairs, TechStyle Fashion Group

### *Government*

- **Lisa Freeman** (STB '07-'10): Judicial Attorney, California Court of Appeal
- **Elizabeth Gillen** (STB '08-'16; Litigation and Intellectual Property): Attorney Advisor for Intellectual Property, Federal Trade Commission
- **Colleen Keating** (STB '09-'10): Counsel, U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission
- **Chava Schwebel** (STB '15-'16): Attorney Advisor, U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Office of International Affairs

### *Judiciary*

- **Rachel Farnsworth** (STB '12-'16): Law Clerk to the Honorable Kevin McNulty for the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey
- **Camille Fletcher** (STB '13-'16; Litigation): Law Clerk to the Honorable Kiyo A. Matsumoto, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York

### *Not-for-Profit*

- **Stephanie Inks** (STB '10-'16; Litigation): Legal Fellow, The Newseum Institute and recently appointed as an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown Law
- **Shannon Price Torres** (STB '07-'16; Litigation): Equity Review Officer, Michigan State University
- **Elizabeth Warnick** (STB '06-'16; Litigation): Assistant General Counsel, Trinity Wall Street

## Event Spotlight:

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### *I Play Fair! A celebration of girls in sports.*

On June 14, 2016, the Palo Alto office teamed up with the Legal Aid Society-Employment Law Center's Fair Play for Girls in Sports project to host "I Play Fair!," an event to raise awareness about the need for equal opportunities for girls in school and community sports programs. The event featured soccer superstar Leslie Osborne, retired U.S. Women's National Team defensive midfielder and former member of the FIFA Women's World Cup™ team, who spoke about the urgent need for equity in sports.

The Palo Alto office transformed its patio and back parking lot into a "playing field" for guests to participate in a variety of sports activities, including a basketball shoot-out, fast-pitch softball, an obstacle course and games of skill. The Firm also provided crafts and games for children, delicious food and beverages, and entertainment from a steel drum performer.

Over 150 guests attended the event, including 20 girls and their leaders from the Boys & Girls Club of the Peninsula, representatives from regional sports organizations and the Legal Aid Society-Employment Law Center team.

The initiative was spearheaded by Palo Alto litigation partner Buzz Frahn, who is Vice Chair of the Legal Aid Society-Employment Law Center and also serves on the Fair Play committee.



Emily Risberg,  
Executive  
Producer, Title IX  
Media

## Associate-Led "Lean In" Group

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*Inspired by Sheryl Sandberg's bestselling book, the Firm's Lean In Group is very active and has hosted a series of meetings for women associates, counsel and partners with inspiring outside guest speakers.*

- In May, the New York Lean In Group hosted Naomi Waltman, Senior Vice-President and Associate General Counsel of CBS Corporation, and Hazel-Ann Mayers, Executive Vice President and General Counsel of Simon & Schuster.
- In July, the New York Lean In Group hosted Susan Smith Blakeley, an author, speaker, and legal career counselor for women.
- In September, the New York Lean In Group hosted a bravery training session with Crista Samaras, the co-founder of BRAVE Enterprises, which focuses on bravery training for women.
- In October, the New York Lean In Group hosted columnist and author Susie Schnall, author of several novels and an interview series entitled "The Balance Project."
- In November, the New York Lean In Group hosted Vivia Chen, "The Careerist" and Chief Blogger for *The American Lawyer*.
- In December, the New York Lean In Group hosted Paula England, sociology professor at NYU, who will discuss her recent study on the Motherhood Penalty and Fatherhood Bonus.



## Other Events and Programs

*In recent months, the Firm has sponsored, supported, or hosted a broad range of women's events.*

- In April, the New York office hosted a Women's Lunch featuring Bethany Lampland, Chief Operating Officer of The New York Foundling, a charity that offers a broad range of services for underserved children, families, and adults with developmental disabilities. as well as a breakfast meeting for the Kate Stoneman Project.
- In June, current and former Simpson Thacher attorneys, paralegals and staff joined the Honorable **Mary Kay Vyskocil** (STB '85-'16) in celebrating her investiture as United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of New York.



From left: Mary Beth Forshaw, Mary Kay Vyskocil, Lynn Neuner, Lori Lesser and Susannah Geltman

- In July, the women partners of the New York office hosted a dinner for women summer associates, the D.C. office hosted a lunch for women associates and counsel, and the Palo Alto office hosted a hike and dinner event for women attorneys and women summer associates. The New York office also sponsored a women's service project benefiting The New York Foundling's Crisis Nursery.

In addition, the Firm's New York office hosted 20 young women in grades 7-11 from the Young Women's Leadership School's Tech

Explorers program as part of the Firm's Urban Education Initiative. The students learned about different jobs within a law firm and attended a networking lunch. Litigation Partner **Lori Lesser** gave welcoming remarks to the students.

- In August, the Firm's New York office hosted a Career Day for seven high school students from the YWCA of Brooklyn's Young Women's Leadership, Empowerment, and Academic Development program as part of the Firm's Urban Education Initiative. The program was organized by Senior Litigation Counsel **Janet Gochman** and the Firm's Urban Education Initiative Coordinator, Kristin Glauadel.
- In October, the Firm hosted the alumnae dinner for DirectWomen, a national non-profit organization that works to increase the representation of women lawyers on corporate boards.
- In November, the New York office held a training workshop for women associates facilitated by Hillary Sale, the Walter D. Coles Professor of Law and Professor of Management at Washington University School of Law. Professor Sale also spoke at a dinner with women partners in the New York office on the topic of business development.

Also in November, the London office held a private screening of the film "Equity" for women attorneys. The movie is a financial thriller starring a female investment banker. The film was written, directed and produced by an all-women creative team.



# Honors and Awards

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- In July 2016, *Yale Law Women* named Simpson Thacher's Los Angeles Office as a "Top Five Family Friendly Law Firm" in California. Among other goals, *Yale Law Women's* annual survey aims to highlight progress being made in the legal industry towards gender equality and family friendliness.
- Litigation Partner **Alexis Coll-Very** was named by the *Daily Journal* as one of California's "Top Women Lawyers of 2016." Alexis was honored for her representation of Avago Technologies in shareholder litigation, as well as her pro bono work for the right to sex education for public school students in California in precedent setting litigation against Clovis Unified School District.
- Litigation Partners **Mary Beth Forshaw**, **Lynn Neuner** and **Cheryl Scarboro** have once again been recognized as three of this year's "Top 250 Women in Litigation" by *Benchmark Litigation*. The feature honors the accomplishments of America's leading female trial lawyers and celebrates the contributions of female litigators to the market and the courtroom. *Benchmark* selects its honorees through extensive client and peer interviews. All three were also named on last year's list.
- Corporate partner **Clare Gaskell** was profiled by *Law360* as a "Rising Star" in private equity for 2016. She was honored for her work on complex private equity transactions, including the Blackstone Group's \$450 million acquisition of Japanese Residential Investment Company.
- Litigation Partner **Susannah Geltman** was named to *Benchmark Litigation's* inaugural "Under 40 Hot List," which honors the achievements of the nation's most accomplished legal partners under the age of 40.
- Corporate partner **Kirsten Jensen** was named a 2016 Women Leader in Tech Law by *The Recorder*. The award acknowledges women in the Bay Area who have negotiated transformational deals that remake companies and move markets.
- Corporate Partner **Marni Lerner** was named by *Law360* as Private Equity MVP for 2016—one of only five private equity lawyers selected nationwide.
- Corporate Associate **Hui Lin**, elected to partnership effective January 1, 2017, has been selected as a member of the 2016 Leadership Council on Legal Diversity ("LCLD") Fellows. The LCLD is an organization comprised of law firm managing partners and general counsel dedicated to improving diversity in the legal profession. The LCLD Fellows Program is designed to connect high-potential attorneys with in-house counsel from preeminent organizations for a year-long professional development program that focuses on relationship building and leadership skills.
- Corporate Partner **Roxane Reardon** was named "Best in Capital Markets" at the fifth annual Americas Women in Business Law Awards presented by *Euromoney Legal Media Group* on June 9, 2016. The Americas Women in Business Law Awards were developed to celebrate the achievements of women leading their field in the legal sector across the Americas. Other Simpson Thacher attorneys shortlisted to receive an award include Corporate Partners **Olga Gutman**, **Marni Lerner**, **Laura Palma**, Personal Planning Partner **Laura Twomey**, and Litigation Partners **Mary Beth Forshaw** and **Cheryl Scarboro**.
- Corporate partner **Katie Sudol** was named the best M&A and private equity lawyer at the *Euromoney Asia Women in Business Law Awards 2016*. The award honors the best female lawyers across Asia and celebrates the advancement of women in the legal profession in the region. Katie was also named by *Law360* as Retail & E-Commerce MVP for 2016—one of only three lawyers selected nationwide in this category. In addition, Katie was named one of the top 100 private practice lawyers for the China market by the *China Business Law Journal*.
- Litigation partner **Cheryl Scarboro** was recognized as one of "The 25 Most Influential Women in Securities Law" by *Law360*. Cheryl was honored for her work as the first-ever chief of the SEC's Foreign Corrupt Practices Act unit. In that role she spearheaded the agency's investigation into an Oil-for-Food scandal and negotiated the settlement in the largest FCPA enforcement action to date. *Law360* reported that as a Partner at Simpson Thacher, Cheryl "continues to bring the same exacting and strategic approach to her work defending clients before the SEC and counseling

on FCPA matters that made her a star in her 19 years at the agency.”

- Pro Bono Counsel **Harlene Katzman** was among the recipients of the “Lawyers Who Lead by Example” Pro Bono award from *The New York Law Journal*. The Pro Bono honor recognizes attorneys with an outstanding record of providing crucial legal services to poor or nearly poor New Yorkers. Harlene and her fellow honorees were featured in a special section of *The New York Law Journal* and honored at a dinner held on September 20, 2016.

Earlier this year, Harlene also received the 2016 Pro Bono Counsel Award from Her Justice as part of its 2016 Commitment to Justice Awards. The award recognizes the commitment of legal volunteers who generously donated their time and expertise last year to

help women and their families receive the legal support they desperately needed.

- Litigation Associate **Kristina Green** was honored by the Legal Aid Society as part of its 2016 Pro Bono Publico Awards. Kristina was recognized for her representation of a criminal defendant in a case on appeal to the First Department in New York.
- Corporate Associate **Caroline Gross** was honored at Sanctuary for Families’ Above & Beyond Pro Bono Achievement Awards in October. The award comes in recognition of her unwavering commitment to Sanctuary’s Queens Trafficking Intervention Pro Bono Project; her ability to make Sanctuary’s most vulnerable clients feel comfortable telling her their stories; her skillful advocacy on behalf of those clients; and her leadership in inspiring other attorneys at Simpson Thacher to volunteer with the project.

## Recent Engagements

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*Women attorneys at Simpson Thacher are at the forefront of headline-making engagements, and they are leaders both in their fields and within their practice groups. Selected highlights include the following engagements:*



Litigation Partner **Alexis Coll-Very** provided regulatory advice in connection with committed financing related to Lions Gate Entertainment Corporation’s \$4.4 billion acquisition of Starz. The team on this matter included Partners **Katharine Moir**, Bill Sheehan, Bill Brentani, Dan Webb and Edward Chung; Senior Counsel Adeeb Fadil; Counsel **Marcela Robledo**, Ismael Duran; and Associates **Kate Bai**, **Tanvi Mirani**, **Noreen Lavan**, Diego Matamoros, Ryan Coombs and Brandon Martin. Alexis is also representing Microsoft Corporation in shareholder litigation arising from Microsoft’s \$26.2 acquisition of Linked-In. The team on this matter includes Partner Pete Kazanoff; and Associates **Jenny Palmer** and Steve Blake.



Corporate Partner **Elizabeth Cooper** represented People’s Securities in its \$3 billion acquisition of Gerstein Fischer, an investment management firm. The team on this matter included Partners **Lori Lesser**, Rajib Chanda, David Rubinsky and Jonathan Goldstein; Senior Counsel **Jeanne Annarumma** and Michael Naughton; Counsel Paul Koppel; and Associates **Yui Hirohashi**, **Monisha Bhayana**, **Jacqueline Clinton**, **Samantha Steinfeld**, **Linda Nyberg**, Sung Jin, Christopher Healey, Eric Wolf and Kenneth Ehrhard. Elizabeth also advised KeyCorp on its \$1.7 billion divestiture of 18 First Niagara Banks branches in connection with KeyCorp’s \$4.1 billion acquisition of First Niagara. The team on this matter included Partners Lee Meyerson, Peter Guryan, Tristan Brown and Jonathan Goldstein; Counsel Mark Chorazak; and Associates **Leah Segall**, Jakob Rendtorff, Michael Arsiotis, Spencer Sloan and Richard Jamgochian.



Corporate Partner **Clare Gaskell** is leading the team representing private equity funds managed by Blackstone in its acquisition of Acetow from Solvay for an enterprise value of around €1 billion. The team on this matter includes Partners Brian Gluck, Antti Pesonen, David Vann; Senior Counsel **Meredith Jones**; and Associates **Ying Yi Soh, Katherine Chen, Tara Kelly, Kavita Davis**, Adam Wollstein, Jakob Egle, Michael Chao, Joseph Thomas and Joseph Tootle.



Corporate Partner **Caroline Gottschalk** led the team representing Lightyear Capital LLC, a New York-based private equity firm focused on financial services investing, and Public Sector Pension Investment Board, one of Canada's largest pension investment managers, in the acquisition of AIG Advisor Group. The team on this matter included Partners **Lori Lesser**, Gary Mandel, Larry Moss, James Cross, Rajib Chanda and Gary Horowitz; Senior Counsel Steven DeLott; and Associates **Jihyun Chung, Jennifer Poon, Alina Grinman, Annie Tsao**, Scott Rudin, Michael Vernace, Christopher Healey and JaeWon Lee.



Corporate Partner **Olga Gutman** led a 10-lawyer team representing CVC Credit Partners in the establishment of a Global Special Situations Fund, which raised approximately \$721 million in capital commitments to invest in European corporate credit opportunities. The team on this matter included Partners Glenn Sarno, John Creed and Newly-elected Partner Parker Kelsey; Senior Counsel **Jeanne Annarumma**; and Associates **Carolyn Houston, Sophie Staples**, Rony Rothken, John Tracy and Transaction Manager **Zixuan Jiang**.



Corporate Partner **Jennifer Hobbs** led the credit team representing Dell in connection with over \$49 billion of financing for its acquisition of EMC Corporation. The team on this matter included Partner Ken Wallach and Newly-elected Partners **Hui Lin** and Adam Shapiro; Senior Counsel **Jennifer Levitt**; and Associates **Nelli Zaltsman, Siobhan Lam, Brenda Hwang, Katharine Thompson, Mimi Cheng**, Patrick McCamy and Kyle Spies. Jennifer also represented Symantec Corporation in the debt financing for its \$4.65 billion acquisition of Blue Coat. The team on this matter included Counsel Christian Fischer and Associate **Shana Ramirez**.



Corporate Partner **Kirsten Jensen** represented McKesson Corporation in connection with a sourcing agreement for generic pharmaceuticals with Wal-Mart Stores. The team on this matter included Partners **Katharine Moir**, Derek Baird and Eric Swedenburg; and Associates **Anais Fritz, Dena Acevedo, Tanvi Mirani** and Austen Heim.



Corporate Partner **Marni Lerner** led the team representing affiliates of Palladium Equity Partners in their significant investment in Del Real, a Hispanic refrigerated foods company. The team on this matter included Partners **Olga Gutman, Lori Lesser**, James Cross, Larry Moss and John Creed; Senior Counsel Adeeb Fadil; and Associates **Jihyun Chung, Amy Ward, Jennifer Poon, Jennifer Pepin, Joo Hyun Lee, Louise Kruger, Linda Tieh, Sage Hughes, Amber Harezlak**, Kyle Brett, Mark Viera, Andrew Yong and Michael Badain.



Intellectual Property/Privacy Partner **Lori Lesser** and Corporate Partner **Joyce Xu** played leading roles advising Microsoft Corporation in its \$26.2 billion acquisition of LinkedIn. The team on this matter included Partners Alan Klein, Anthony Vernace, Bill Brentani, Greg Grogan and Jonathan Goldstein; Senior Counsel Adeeb Fadil; Counsel **Marcela Robledo**, **Aimee Adler** and **Krista McManus**; and Associates **Kathryn Crumbaugh**, **Amber Harezlak**, **Nadine Mompremier**, **Monisha Bhayana**, **Rachel Stein**, **Noreen Lavan**, **Lihua Chen**, **Shimeng Cheng**, William Allen, Grady Chang, Michael Chao and William Smolinski.



Litigation Partner **Lynn Neuner**, along with Litigation Partner George Wang, obtained the complete dismissal of a securities fraud class action against Weight Watchers brought by plaintiffs who claimed the company concealed negative trends from its investors. The team on this matter included Associates **Rachel Sparks Bradley** and Tyler Bernstein.



Corporate Partner **Risë Norman** led a 9-lawyer team representing the underwriters in a \$2 billion notes offering by Target Corporation. The team on this matter included Senior Counsel Jonathan Cantor and Adeeb Fadil; Counsel **Jennie Getsin**; and Associates **Alina Grinman**, **Monica Chan**, Alexander Muller, Patrick Vergara and Andrew Purcell. Risë also represented The Hershey Company in an \$800 million debt offering. The team on this matter included Partner Larry Moss; Senior Counsel Jonathan Cantor and Michael Isby; and Associates **Kathryn Crumbaugh**, **Jennifer Pepin**, **Amber Harezlak**, John O'Connell and Andrew Purcell.



Corporate Partner **Lesley Peng** played a leading role representing AXIS Capital Holdings Limited, a Bermuda based insurance and reinsurance company, in a \$550 million public offering of depositary shares. The team on this matter included Partner Gary Horowitz; Senior Counsel Steven DeLott and Jonathan Cantor; and Associates **Jennifer Pepin**, John O'Connell, Michael Panzer, Andrew Purcell and John Torrenti.



Litigation Partner **Sara Razi** obtained antitrust clearance from the Federal Trade Commission for her client Koninklijke Ahold in its merger with Delhaize Group. The cross-border transaction, which was completed on July 23, 2016, combined two of the largest U.S. supermarket operators and resulted in a combined company valued at approximately \$29 billion. The team on this matter included Associates **Karen Horvitz**, **Lindsey Bohl** and David Shogren. Sara is also representing HCA in antitrust review of its sale of the Oklahoma University Medical Center to a competing health system. The team on this matter includes Associates **Andrea Levine**, **Lindsey Bohl**, **Jenny Palmer** and Andy Hasty.



Corporate Partner **Roxane Reardon** led a 26-lawyer team representing Acushnet Holdings Corp., owner of Titleist and FootJoy golf brands, in its \$378 million initial public offering. The team on this matter included Partners **Marcy Geller**, Jin Hyuk Park, William Sheehan, David Rubinsky and Jonathan Lindabury; Senior Counsel Michael Isby and Steven DeLott; Counsel **Janice Brunner**, **Marcela Robledo**, **Krista McManus**, Arjun Koshal, James Rapp, Christian Fischer and Andrew Blau; and Associates **Kirsten Harmon**, **Nadine Mompremier**, **Amber Harezlak**, **Louise Kruger**, Jonathan Ozner, Elliott Im, Iksoo Kim, Jonathan Zane, George Davis, Timothy Mulvihill and Solomon Bashi.





Corporate Partner **Sinead O'Shea** is leading the U.K. credit team advising China National Chemical Corporation in its \$43 billion acquisition of Syngenta, a Swiss agrochemical and seeds company. The team on this matter includes Partners **Lori Lesser**, Shaolin Luo, Alan Klein, Christopher May, Christopher Bell, David Vann, Peter Guryan, Brian Robbins, Rob Holo, John Creed and Newly-elected Partner Andrew Blau; Senior Counsel Adeeb Fadil; Counsel **Ellen Frye** and **Krista McManus**; and Associates **Judy Huang, Tracy Ke, Lupeng Liu, Kristina Ostertag, Jackie Kahng, Andrea Levine, Alessia De Quincey, Joo Hyun Lee, Jacqueline Clinton, Noreen Lavan, Linda Nyberg**, Daniel Owsley, John Skinner and Registered Foreign Lawyer Yang Wang.

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Litigation Partner **Deborah Stein** obtained a Ninth Circuit decision affirming dismissal of a whistleblower False Claims Act lawsuit against Deutsche Bank. The complaint alleged that Deutsche Bank and other financial institutions defrauded the federal government of \$137 billion in connection with the federal government's "bailout" of AIG during the recent financial crisis. The team included Partner Bryce Friedman and Associate Colin Rolfs.

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Corporate Partner **Katie Sudol** represented KKR, certain other selling shareholders and Gland Pharma Limited in connection with the announced acquisition by Shanghai Fosun Pharmaceutical (Group) Co. of an approximate 86% stake in Gland Pharma for up to US\$1.26 billion. The team on this matter included Partners Christopher Bell, Tristan Brown and Newly-elected Partner Ian Ho; Senior Counsel Michael Naughton; Counsel Jason Vollbracht; and Associates **Shannon Itoyama, Linda Nyberg, Tanvi Mirani**, Timothy Mulvihill, Paul Barrus, Kenneth Ehrhard and Michael Young. Katie also represented KKR and other selling shareholders in the sale of Alliance Tire Group to Yokohama Rubber Co. for approximately \$1.2 billion. The team on this matter included Partners **Katharine Moir**, Tristan Brown and David Vann; and Registered Foreign Lawyers **Sandra Kister, Sonya Ho** and Brian Mathes.



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