

Letter from the Women's Committee Chairs



Laura Safdie,
Chief Operating
Officer & General
Counsel of Casetext

This edition of the *Women's Connection* profiles two women who are known for always rising to the challenge, Simpson Thacher alumna **Laura Safdie** (STB '12-'14) and Corporate Partner **Clare Gaskell**. Laura is now Chief Operating Officer & General Counsel of Casetext, a company that is reshaping the legal research industry with the power of artificial intelligence. Clare is a London-based partner who advises clients in high-profile mergers and acquisitions and capital markets transactions. Both Laura and Clare offer thoughtful advice for women at any stage of their legal careers. We hope you enjoy reading their profiles as much as we did.



Clare Gaskell,
Corporate Partner,
London

Here at Simpson Thacher, our award-winning women partners, counsel and associates continue to make tremendous strides on cutting-edge corporate engagements, complex litigations, and a broad range of other matters. We are delighted to share with you some of our most recent accomplishments in the pages that follow.

To do our best work, it's important to take a break from time to time. We hope each of you will have the opportunity to rest and recharge this summer.

With our best wishes,

Caroline B. Gottschalk and Laura M. Twomey

Revolutionizing Legal Research with Artificial Intelligence:

A Conversation with Laura Safdie of Casetext



“When you empower passionate advocates with the best technology available, they can be unstoppable.”

Any lawyer who has ever been tasked with legal research knows just how frustrating the process can be. First, there’s the challenge of crafting the perfect query. Even one misplaced connector or wrong word choice can leave you wading through a sea of irrelevant decisions. Second, there’s always the gnawing worry of missing an important ruling. You’re never quite sure when you’ve done enough research to present what you believe is the right answer.

Jake Heller, an engineer turned litigation associate at a large East Coast law firm, recognized that there was a better way to leverage technology to streamline the legal research process. He called his good friend **Laura Safdie** (STB ’12-’14) and shared his idea: *What if you could leverage machine learning, artificial intelligence, and legal documents—both public content and the information in an attorney’s litigation documents—to dramatically improve attorneys’ effectiveness at identifying the information they need to represent their clients?* Laura connected with the opportunity immediately. As a litigator, she saw firsthand how both client expectations and the business of law firms were evolving in response to a changing market. The tools and business models from before the financial crisis,

really from the last century, were no longer accomplishing what attorneys needed them to do.

Revolutionizing legal research was only one of the goals. This approach would bring the law out from behind a paywall, so that everyone could read statutes and case law entirely free of charge, dramatically increasing public access to legal information. Paying for basic access to legal materials did not make sense in the modern era of cost-free information-sharing. In every industry, content was becoming more free and the value-add was higher-level expertise and services. Why should law be any different?

The idea of democratizing access to legal information energized Laura. When she was a law clerk for the Honorable Paul A. Engelmayer of the Southern District of New York, she saw that public interest lawyers were sometimes limited in their ability to raise sophisticated legal arguments because they did not always have the luxury of unlimited research. Then, in her pro bono practice at Simpson Thacher, it became apparent to Laura how valuable the Firm’s resources were to success in her matters. She came to believe that access to legal information was a critical, although often overlooked, part of providing wider access to legal justice.

Jake eventually won seed funding from Y Combinator, a famed startup accelerator in Silicon Valley. After thousands of hours of programming, he developed a working prototype, and Casetext was born. The company grew so quickly that it soon needed a General Counsel and Chief Operating Officer, and Laura was the first person he called.

Although Laura was just finishing her second year at Simpson Thacher, she had already been tasked with enormous responsibility on her cases. The learning curve was steep, but she was thriving under the guidance of mentors like Barry Ostrager and David Ichel. While Laura loved Simpson Thacher, she knew that the offer to build Casetext's vision was one she couldn't refuse. "This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make a difference on a wide scale," says Laura.

In the few short years since Laura joined the company, Casetext has become a force to be reckoned with in the competitive legal technology industry. The company does exactly what its founder had imagined years ago: leverage technology to help litigators be more effective and efficient advocates for their clients. Lawyers can drag and drop briefs, complaints, and other legal documents into CARA A.I., Casetext's artificial intelligence-powered automated legal research assistant, which then quickly goes to work for the lawyer. The technology leverages the information in the litigation documents—the facts, legal issues, motion at issue, and jurisdiction—and uses it to deliver a search experience that is highly tailored to the issues an attorney is working on. CARA A.I. also pulls up relevant briefs filed by other firms, so a lawyer can see how other lawyers argued similar issues.

Laura explains that Casetext dramatically reduces the amount of time and effort needed to find and understand the law on any given issue. This allows lawyers to spend more time analyzing the law and crafting legal arguments. "Casetext lets lawyers focus on doing what they do best," says Laura. She notes that it gives attorneys the confidence that they have not missed anything important by leveraging the kind of advanced pattern recognition that no human, no matter how brilliant, can do on his or her own with generic search inquiries.

Casetext is rapidly changing the way that law firms do research and investors are taking notice. In 2017, Casetext received \$12 million in Series B funding from a group of investors including Canvas Ventures, which previously invested in Siri and Evernote, and Union Square Ventures, which funded Twitter, Etsy, and Lending Club. Casetext has been using the

funds to invest in software development, grow its artificial intelligence and machine learning capabilities, and expand the company's reach. In early 2018, Casetext rolled out two new technology-powered databases: *Black Letter Law*, which provides researchers with dynamic access to core legal principles; and *Holdings*, the largest-ever searchable collection of concise case summaries.

Casetext has also made the dream of providing free access to the law a reality. While CARA A.I. is available only on a subscription basis, Casetext's website provides a searchable database of case law and statutes that anyone can use completely free of charge. Upwards of a million people, including thousands of pro se litigants, access the law on Casetext each month.

In 2017, Laura was so inspired by the mobilization in response to the travel ban Executive Order that, after joining the hundreds of lawyers representing immigrants at airports in the aftermath of the Executive Order, she and the whole Casetext leadership team went one step further. They arranged for attorneys to use CARA A.I.—Casetext's premium service—entirely free of charge on matters involving the protection of civil rights and civil liberties, and within a month over 500 law firms and advocacy groups were using the service to help them represent their clients' interests. "Each individual attorney's involvement can have a meaningful impact," Laura notes, "but when you empower passionate advocates with the best technology available, they can be unstoppable."

Laura is thrilled to play such a significant role in building a company that she describes as "categorically experience-improving" for litigators at every level. She credits her training at Simpson Thacher with giving her the confidence to jump into a General Counsel role so early in her career. As a litigation associate, Laura was constantly being asked to do things she had never done before. She quickly discovered that the best way to tackle any new situation was to learn as much as possible about the subject matter at hand. "I've found that if you work really, really hard," says Laura, "there are few things you can't figure out with a little bit of guidance."

Rising to the Challenge:

A Conversation with Corporate Partner Clare Gaskell



“Pay attention to ... whether you are conveying a sense of self-assurance in your own abilities. The results may surprise you.”

When longstanding Firm client KKR met with Unilever to discuss the outstanding commercial issues for KKR’s \$8 billion acquisition of Unilever’s global Spreads business, there were only two lawyers in the room. London-based corporate partner **Clare Gaskell** was one of them. She represented KKR in the high-stakes in-person negotiation process that continued for nearly twenty-four straight hours. While some deals of this size take weeks to finalize, teams of lawyers on both sides worked together to button up the KKR-Unilever transaction just one day after KKR won the heavily-contested auction process for Unilever’s Spreads business. Clare still finds it difficult to believe that the KKR and Unilever teams were able to get the deal over the starting line and off to the races so quickly.

Clare is now heading a team of more than thirty Simpson Thacher lawyers representing KKR on completing the Spreads acquisition. She explains that the Unilever transaction is a perfect example of a deal in which Simpson Thacher is involved in every aspect of the engagement. In addition to serving as M&A counsel, the Firm is also advising on the financing, antitrust, and tax aspects of the acquisition.

As the lead lawyer on the KKR side, Clare is in charge of coordinating all of these different moving parts. Many of the other Simpson

Thacher lawyers on the team have independent relationships with KKR, and they manage their own workstreams. Still, it is up to Clare to keep everyone on the same page and working in sync. One of her most important roles is ensuring that everyone has access to the right information while guarding against information overload. Clare explains that having the judgment to know exactly what the other lawyers on the team need, and when they need it, is an essential skill she has developed through her years of experience running deals.

Beyond her transactional work, Clare shines at capital markets engagements. She explains that the Firm’s London office is unique in that corporate lawyers routinely handle both M&A and Capital Markets work. Clare has handled numerous initial public offerings for portfolio companies of private equity firms such as Apax Partners and KKR. In 2016, she advised Ascential, an Apax portfolio company, in its IPO and admission to the Official List in the United Kingdom and to trading on the London Stock Exchange. She recently worked with New York-based Corporate Partners Edgar J. Lewandowski and Jonathan Ozner on the \$731.5 million U.S. IPO of Gates Industrial Corporation, a U.S.-headquartered entity with an English holding company.

Clare loves the variety that comes with balancing an M&A practice with capital markets work for the same set of core institutional clients. She notes that these clients tend to engage in a wide range of transactions and appreciate the advantages of using the same set of lawyers for M&A engagements and for IPOs. While clients prize practice area specialists, they also value lawyers who know the business and the company well, and can turn their hands at different transactions.

Clare's versatility and business-oriented approach have won her high marks with clients and colleagues alike. She credits her success, in part, to her willingness to project confidence in her own capabilities. Over the years, Clare has learned that the manner in which she presents herself is just as important as the substantive knowledge she brings to the table. She has found that "persona is very important" when it comes to convincing others to trust her judgment.

For young women lawyers, Clare offers some excellent words of advice: "Don't underestimate the importance of your style of presentation and operate under the misconception that the substance is all that matters." She has often

seen women lawyers who are extraordinarily talented yet present and express themselves in a way that makes this hard to notice and fails to inspire confidence in clients. Clare explains that unless people can visualize you in a leadership role, they are not going to entrust you with the next level of responsibility. She suggests that women lawyers take steps to make their presence and their abilities known, by doing things as simple as introducing themselves at important meetings and offering a firm handshake, or raising questions during conference calls. "Pay attention to how you are coming across and whether you are conveying a sense of self-assurance in your own abilities," recommends Clare. The results may surprise you.



Alumnae Notes

*An update on notable alumnae career developments.**

In-House and Corporate Moves

- **Karen Abravanel** (STB '04-'09; Litigation): Executive Director, Chief Litigation Counsel, Avon Products
- **Dena Acevedo** (STB '12-'18; Corporate): Senior Corporate Counsel, Juniper Networks
- **Jennifer Albrecht** (STB '12-'17; Corporate): Vice President, Goldman Sachs & Co.
- **Tinuade Awe** (STB '00-'07; Litigation): Executive Director, Regulation, The Nigerian Stock Exchange
- **Christina Barnsley** (STB '09-'14; Corporate): Corporate Counsel, Amazon Web Services
- **Karen Baruh** (STB '01-'04; Litigation): Vice President, Distribution Business and Legal Affairs, HBO
- **Whytne Brooks** (STB '10-'15; Litigation): Associate General Counsel, New York Life Insurance Co.
- **Leah Brown** (STB '15-'17; Corporate): Deputy Legal Counsel, Tyndaris LLP
- **Meghan Cannella Carroll** (STB '07-'14; Litigation): Associate Labor Relations Counsel, National Football League
- **Yafit Cohn** (STB '14-'17; Corporate): Associate Group General Counsel, The Travelers Companies, Inc.
- **Sarah Conde** (STB '12-'14; Corporate): Deputy General Counsel, Providence Equity Partners
- **Kathryn Crumbaugh** (STB '15-'17): Associate Counsel, Thrive Capital
- **Meredith Duffy** (STB '08-'18; Litigation): Vice President and Assistant General Counsel, Corporate and Investment Bank Litigation Group, JP Morgan Chase & Co.
- **Emily Epstein** (STB '07-'14; Corporate): Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, The Nielsen Company
- **Taryn Fielder** (STB '02-'04; Real Estate): Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, Washington REIT
- **Anais Fritz** (STB '11-'17; Corporate): Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer, 8C Capital
- **Lauren Gay** (STB '13-'15; Corporate): Counsel, Peloton
- **Carolina Gedeon** (STB '07-'09; Corporate): Corporate and Contracts Partner, Viseu Advogados, Director of Compliance & Risk, MARE Investimentos and Member of the Board of Directors, Mineração e Metálicos SA
- **Shannon Guy** (STB '13-'17; Corporate): Director of Legal, Brookfield Property Group
- **Amanda Hector** (STB '05-'09; Litigation): General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer, D1 Capital Partners
- **Sarah Hong** (STB '08-'12; Corporate): Senior Vice President, Business & Legal Affairs, 30WEST
- **Anna Huilaja** (STB '14-'17; Corporate): Executive Director, Goldman Sachs
- **Naomi Hung** (STB '14-'16; Corporate): Vice President and Assistant General Counsel, Goldman Sachs
- **Misan Ikomi** (STB '11-'17; Corporate): Vice President, AMC Networks
- **Amy Jedlicka** (STB '89-'97; '97-'04; Real Estate): Senior Vice President and General Counsel, Marx Realty & Improvement Co.
- **Julia Kou** (STB '98-'04; Corporate): Vice President, Corporate Development, Carlson Wagonlit Travel
- **Catherine Kung** (STB '98-'01; Corporate): Senior Counsel and Vice President, Federal Reserve Bank of New York
- **Felicia Lai** (STB '11-'16; Corporate): Principal, Legal and Compliance, KKR
- **Wei Li** (STB '14-'17; Corporate): Counsel, Blue Pool Capital
- **Shelly Lin** (STB '12-'17; Corporate): Senior Counsel, Interpublic Group
- **Ann Walker McDowell** (STB '02-'10; Corporate): Associate Director – Legal (M&A, Finance, Offshore Wind), EDP Renewables
- **Janine McGrath** (STB '94-'03; Corporate): Senior Counsel, National Hockey League

- **Rachel (Weiss) Mechanic** (STB '09-'13; Litigation): Vice President, Assistant General Counsel, Government Investigations & Regulatory Enforcement, JP Morgan Chase & Co.
- **Julia Miller** (STB '06-'11; Real Estate): Associate General Counsel, Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation
- **Theresa Mohan** (STB '90-'92; Litigation): General Counsel Americas and Secretary, Exela Technologies
- **Elizabeth Muscarella** (STB '12-'17; Corporate): Vice President and Assistant General Counsel, PineBridge Investments
- **Linda Nyberg** (STB '13-'18; Intellectual Property): Associate Corporate Counsel, Google
- **Leslie Oguchi** (STB '10-'11; Corporate): Senior Counsel, Houston Astros
- **Paula Redondo Pereira** (STB '09-'10; Corporate): Senior Regulatory Counsel, Luxembourg Stock Exchange
- **Wonda Quinn** (STB '05-'11; Executive Compensation and Employee Benefits): Director, Employment Law, BlackRock, Inc.
- **Zara Ohiorhenuan Rethy** (STB '09-'14; Litigation): Counsel, Two Sigma Investments
- **Megan Sherman** (STB '16-'17; Corporate): Corporate Counsel, Chief Compliance Officer, DivcoWest
- **Jennison Smith** (STB '15-'17; Corporate): Associate General Counsel, Portfolio Advisors
- **Victoria Tam** (STB '16-'18; Corporate): Director and Senior Legal Counsel, Western Digital Corporation
- **Vanessa Tisci** (STB '14-'17; Corporate): Senior International Counsel, Walgreens Boots Alliance
- **Annie Tsao** (STB '15-'17; Corporate): Director of Growth Operations, InCloudCounsel
- **Amy Ward** (STB '11-'18; Corporate): Vice President and Associate General Counsel, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking
- **Stephanie Fleischman** (STB '02-'04; Litigation): Chief of Staff & Special Counsel, Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
- **Serafima Krikunova** (STB '12-'15; Litigation): Enforcement Attorney, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission
- **Jessica Marek** (STB '09-'17; Litigation): Deputy Attorney General III, State of California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General
- **Lauren Repole** (STB '14-'17; Litigation): Assistant U.S. Attorney, U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey
- **Tina Woehr** (STB '12-'14; Litigation): Attorney, Office of the Federal Public Defender, District of Arizona
- **Wei (Katherine) Zhao** (STB '15-'17; Litigation): Attorney Advisor, U.S. Department of Labor

Judiciary

- **Abigail Dugan** (STB '16-'17; Litigation): Law Clerk, Judge Pierre N. Leval, United States Court of Appeals, Second Circuit

Not-for-Profit

- **Leontine Chuang** (STB '01-'05; Corporate): Director for Hong Kong, PILNet: The Global Network for Public Interest Law
- **Lauren Finkelstein** (STB '15-'17; Corporate): Immigration Attorney - Domestic Violence Project, Urban Justice Center
- **Marina Lin** (STB '05-'09; Corporate): Managing Director of Programs, The Holdsworth Center
- **Alexis Lorenzo** (STB '04-'09; Litigation): Director, Foreclosure Prevention/Bankruptcy/Community Economic Development Unit, Bronx Legal Services
- **Sarah Luppen Fowler** (STB '08-'13; Litigation): Associate General Counsel, SAG-AFTRA
- **Samantha Pitts-Kiefer** (STB '04-'07; Corporate): Senior Director, Global Nuclear Policy Program, Nuclear Threat Initiative
- **Jennifer Poon** (STB '15-'17; Corporate): STB Public Service Fellowship, ACLU of Southern California
- **Nicole (Annunziato) Wallach** (STB '15-'17; Corporate): Staff Attorney, Advocates for Children of New York
- **Peri Zelig** (STB '07-'15; Litigation): Assistant General Counsel, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Government

- **Taimarie Adams** (STB '06-'08; Litigation): Director of Government Relations, Service Year Alliance
- **Andrea Andrezo** (STB '06-'17; Corporate): Advisor to Commissioner, Comissão de Valores Mobiliários (the SEC-equivalent in Brazil)

Women's Events at Simpson Thacher

The Firm continues to organize and support events for women attorneys at all levels.

December 2017

- Litigation Partners **Mary Beth Forshaw**, **Susannah S. Geltman**, **Lori E. Lesser** and **Lynn K. Neuner** organized a holiday cocktail party for women litigators in the New York office.
- Litigation Partners **Sara Y. Razi** and **Cheryl J. Scarboro** hosted a holiday lunch at Zaytinya for women attorneys in the Washington D.C. office.

January 2018

- The women partners in the New York office hosted a client dinner for general counsel and other senior attorneys, board members, and other senior business executives at Gabriel Kreuther.
- The Women's Advisory Council hosted a Dress for Success drive in the New York office and collected 31 boxes of interview-appropriate women's attire.

March 2018

- The Palo Alto office took women attorneys to hear former First Lady Michelle Obama speak at the Oracle Arena in a conversation moderated by Stacy Brown-Philpot, CEO of TaskRabbit.
- The women associates at the Houston office held a lunch at Fabian's Latin Flavor to celebrate International Women's Day.
- Corporate Partner **Roxane F. Reardon** hosted a cocktail party for women in investment banking. This is the third year that Roxane has hosted the event, which was attended by bankers and lawyers across the major banks.

April 2018

- The Women's Advisory Council sponsored a networking event for women associates, counsel and their clients in the New York office. The event included a flower arranging workshop; a set of the arrangements was donated to the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. The event was organized by Senior Counsel **Amanda K. Moore**, Counsel **Ellen L. Frye**, Associate **Sarah A. Sheridan** and Law Clerk **Dorothy A. Hector**.
- The Palo Alto office hosts quarterly happy hours for women attorneys. The most recent one was held on April 19, 2018.

May 2018

- The New York office hosted a private screening of *RBG*, a documentary chronicling Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's legal legacy, at the Landmark Theater. Litigation Partner **Alexis S. Coll-Very** and Senior Counsel **Simona G. Strauss** hosted female associates and summer associates in the Palo Alto office for a screening of the movie as well.
- Women summer associates in the Washington D.C. office, together with their associate mentors, attended the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia's 2018 Annual Dinner.
- Women attorneys in the London office went out for drinks at Yauatcha City.

Throughout the year, the Firm has also sponsored or supported a variety of other programming geared towards women lawyers, including:

- *Quarterly Women's Forums.* A recent event featured a conversation among the women partners and associates who led and contributed to two very significant recent matters: the Hovnanian refinancing transaction and related litigation and the Blackstone-Thomson Reuters partnership. Corporate Partner **Caroline B. Gottschalk** moderated the conversation with fellow Corporate Partners **Marisa D. Stavenas** and **Elizabeth A. Cooper**, Associates **Jean Y. Park** and **Sarah E. Phillips**, and now-alumna **Elizabeth Romefelt**.
- *Practice Advancement Conversations*, a professional development and mentoring series for female associates, led by women partners with associates from various practice groups.
 - In January, Corporate Partners **Jennifer L. Hobbs**, **Alexandra Kaplan**, **Mary B. Touchstone** and **Jessica Tuchinsky** hosted a lunch for mid-level women associates in Group 1 at La Fonda del Sol in New York.
 - In April, Tax Partners **Nancy L. Mehlman** and **Marcy G. Geller** and Personal Planning Partner **Laura M. Twomey** hosted a lunch with women associates and counsel in the Tax, Personal Planning and Exempt Organizations groups. The discussion was on the subject of “The Fine Art of Delivering Unwelcome News.” Also in April, the women partners in Group 2 hosted a lunch for mid-level women associates in the group at La Fonda del Sol, and the women partners in Group 3 hosted a cocktail party for women attorneys in the group at the home of Corporate Partner **Caroline B. Gottschalk**.
 - *Meetings hosted by an active associate-led Lean In Group in the New York office.* A recent meeting featured Kimberly Trautmann, Head of DRW Venture Capital, who spoke about FinTech, blockchain and the role of women in the new cryptocurrency ecosystem. The meeting was organized by Associate **Lily Chen**.

Simpson
Thacher

Save the Date

Simpson Thacher's
Inaugural Alumnae Reception
Celebrating Our Women Alums

Wednesday, October 17, 2018
6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

The Skylark
200 West 39th Street · New York, NY

Invitation and RSVP Information to follow.



Honors and Awards

- Litigation Partner **Mary Beth Forshaw** was profiled in *Law360* as an “MVP” in insurance for 2017. Mary Beth was recognized for her work on a reinsurance case that settled after she selected a jury, her prosecution of multiple arbitrations and victories in an environmental cleanup coverage case, among other notable matters.
- Litigation Partner **Deborah L. Stein** was elected to the Board of Governors of Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles (WLALA), one of the largest local women’s bar associations in California. WLALA actively promotes the interests of women attorneys and judges, supports the legal rights of all women and advocates principles of fairness and equality for all people.
- Corporate Partner **Marni J. Lerner** and Litigation Partner **Lynn K. Neuner** were named “Leading Women Lawyers in NYC” by *Crain’s New York Business*. Marni was recognized for her role in leading an array of high-profile deals. Lynn was lauded for representing diverse clients in the financial, pharmaceutical and insurance industries and for serving in several prestigious leadership positions, including as Vice President of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York.
- Partners **Mary Beth Forshaw, Ellen L. Frye, Marcy G. Geller, Olga Gutman, Celia Lam, Nancy L. Mehlman, Sara Y. Razi, Cheryl J. Scarboro, Seema Shah** and **Kathryn K. Sudol** were recognized as experts in their respective practice areas by *Who’s Who Legal*.
- Corporate Partner **Wheatly MacNamara** was recognized as one of *The Lawyer’s* “Hot 100” in the “Dealmaker” category for 2018. Wheatly was honored for her efforts in her real estate practice, which include closing the largest real estate deal in European history, as well as her work with The Blackstone Group generally.
- Intellectual Property Counsel **Marcela Robledo** was selected as one of the recipients of the Hispanic National Bar Association’s (“HNBA”) 2018 Top Lawyers Under 40 Award. Marcela received the award at the HNBA’s Corporate Counsel Conference on March 16 in San Francisco.
- Corporate Partner **Jessica Tuchinsky** has been named to *The American Lawyer’s* Young Lawyer Editorial Board. The board provides insights into a wide range of important topics that are outlined in editorials published by the organization.
- Litigation Partner **Cheryl J. Scarboro** was recognized as one of *Savoy Magazine’s* 2018 “Most Influential Black Lawyers.” Cheryl was honored for her exemplary record of accomplishments and influence while working to better her community and inspire others.
- Corporate Partner **Kirsten J. Jensen** was named one of the *Daily Journal’s* Top Women Lawyers in California. Kirsten was recognized for her work advising some of the top companies in the technology and biotechnology industries.
- Corporate Partner **Marni J. Lerner** was featured in an “Acritas Stars” report as one of 13 women lawyers globally who received three or more recommendations. Marni was recognized by client nominators as an “expert M&A negotiator.”
- Litigation Partner **Lynn K. Neuner** was selected by the New York County Lawyers Association as one of its “Outstanding Women in the Legal Profession.” Lynn was honored for her contributions to the legal profession at the organization’s 103rd Annual Dinner.
- Partners **Elizabeth A. Cooper, Mary Beth Forshaw, Olga Gutman, Marni J. Lerner, Jennifer Levitt, Krista Miniutti, Lynn K. Neuner, Lesley**

Peng, Roxane F. Reardon and **Laura M. Twomey** were named to the shortlist of nominees for the seventh annual *Euromoney Legal Media Group Americas Women in Business Law Awards*.

- Partners **Maripat Alpuche, Sarah E. Cogan, Elizabeth A. Cooper, Mary Beth Forshaw, Marcy G. Geller, Olga Gutman, Jennifer L. Hobbs, Lori E. Lesser, Marni J. Lerner, Nancy L.**

Mehlman, Katharine P. Moir, Lynn K. Neuner, Deborah L. Stein and **Joyce Y. Xu** were recognized by *Chambers USA* as leaders in their respective fields of practice.

- Partners **Olga Gutman, Jennifer L. Hobbs, Celia Lam, Kathryn K. Sudol** and **Joyce Y. Xu** were recognized by *Chambers Global* as leaders in their respective fields of practice.

Recent Representations

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:



Corporate Partner **Roxane F. Reardon** led a Simpson Thacher team that represented the underwriters in connection with the public offering by CVS Health Corporation of \$40 billion of senior notes. The offering was the third-largest corporate bond sale on record. The Simpson Thacher team also included Partners Ryan R. Bekkerus, **Deborah L. Stein** and Noah M. Leibowitz; Senior Counsel **Jeanne M. Annarumma**, Jonathan E. Cantor and Michael R. Isby; Counsel **Jennie Getsin**; Associates Robert Meyer, **Christine E. Turner** and **Patricia K. Adams**; and now-alumni **Jo Djekovic** and John Torrenti.



Corporate Partner **Kathryn K. Sudol** led a Hong Kong-based M&A team in the Firm's representation of Alibaba Group Holding in its acquisition of all of the outstanding shares that it does not already own in Ele.me, at an enterprise value of \$9.5 billion for Ele.me. The team also included Associates Erik Ping Wang, **Sandra P. Kister, Sonya Ho** and Matthew Leung.



Corporate Partner **Elizabeth A. Cooper** and Litigation/IP Partner **Lori E. Lesser** were part of the team of Partners leading the Firm's representation of a Blackstone-led consortium, together with Canada Pension Plan Investment Board and GIC, in which private equity funds managed by Blackstone, entered into a \$20 billion partnership agreement with Thomson Reuters for Thomson Reuters' Financial & Risk Business (F&R). The team on this matter also included Partners Wilson S. Neely, Michael O. Wolfson, Gregory T. Grogan, Gary B. Mandel, J. Alden Millard, Brian Gluck, Edward P. Tolley III, Jonathan Ozner, Peter Guryan, David W. Blass and Jonathan A. Karen; Senior Counsel Steven R. DeLott and **Elisa Alcabes**; Counsel **Marcela Robledo, Ellen L. Frye**, Richard J. Jamgochian and **Krista B. McManus**; Associates William Allen, Naveed Anwar, Samuel J. Willie, **Christine E. Turner, Alisa H. Tschorke, Sophie A. Staples, Morgan L. Otway**, Eli Isak, Adam J. Moss, Samuel P. Egendorf, **Karen Horvitz Hunt**, Christopher J. Martini, Steven R. Klar, Benjamin J. Smith, **Jamie Fell** and **Noreen Lavan**; and now-alumna **Elizabeth Romefelt**.



Corporate Partner **Olga Gutman** led a team that represented GCM Grosvenor (“Grosvenor”) in the establishment of GCM Grosvenor Secondary Opportunities Fund II, L.P. Grosvenor has announced that the fund, which will primarily pursue secondary market purchases of interests in established private funds, raised approximately \$700 million in capital commitments, far exceeding its original target of \$250 million. The Simpson Thacher team included Partners **Nancy L. Mehlman** and Andrew B. Purcell; Senior Counsel **Jeanne M. Annarumma**; Associates Rony L. Rothken and Brian J. Mendick; and now-alumna **Maria Monte**.



Corporate Partner **Risë B. Norman** led a team that represented the underwriters in connection with a public offering by FedEx of \$500 million aggregate principal amount of 3.4% Notes due 2028 and \$1 billion aggregate principal amount of 4% Notes due 2048. The Simpson Thacher team for the transaction included, among others, Partner Laurence M. Moss; Senior Counsel Jonathan E. Cantor and Michael R. Isby; Counsel **Jennie Getsin**; and Associates Sung Bum Cho, Christopher J. Murray and Eric Wolf.



Corporate Partner **Marisa D. Stavenas** led the Simpson Thacher team representing Hovnanian in its financing transactions with GSO Capital Partners. As part of the financing transactions, K. Hovnanian Enterprises, Inc., consummated the exchange of approximately \$170.2 million aggregate principal amount of its 8% Senior Notes due 2019 for approximately \$90.6 million aggregate principal amount of K. Hovnanian’s newly issued 13.5% Senior Notes due 2026 and approximately \$90.1 million aggregate principal amount of K. Hovnanian’s newly issued 5% Senior Notes due 2040, and K. Hovnanian at Sunrise Trail III, LLC, Hovnanian’s wholly owned subsidiary, purchased \$26 million in aggregate principal amount of 8% Senior Notes. The team also included Partners **Lynn K. Neuner**, Michael J. Osnato, Jr., William B. Brentani, Richard A. Fenyas, William B. Sheehan and **Marcy G. Geller**; Senior Counsel **Soogy Lee**, Jamin R. Koslowe, Jonathan E. Cantor and Adeeb R. Fadil; Counsel **Jennie Getsin** and Jonathan S. Pall; Associates **Jean Y. Park**, Kim De Glossop, E. Ryan Coombs, **Ashley Sunha Yoon**, Conor J. Colasurdo, **Remy E. Denner**, **Nelli Zaltsman**, **Della Fok**, **Sarah H. Katz** and Dennis J. Loiacono; and now-alumna **Jo Djekovic**.



Litigation Partner **Lynn K. Neuner** and Corporate Partner **Marisa D. Stavenas** led a joint practice team that successfully defeated Solus Alternative Asset Management LP’s efforts to enjoin a refinancing transaction between the Firm’s client Hovnanian Enterprises, Inc., and GSO Capital Partners, LP. After a one day evidentiary hearing with four fact and two expert witnesses, Judge Laura Taylor Swain of the Southern District of New York denied plaintiff’s motion in its entirety, ruling that Solus did not demonstrate it would suffer irreparable harm as a result of the refinancing transaction. The Simpson Thacher team also included Partners Craig S. Waldman and Michael J. Osnato, Jr.; and Associates **Jean Y. Park**, **Sarah E. Phillips**, John A. Robinson, Jonathan T. Menitove, **Shannon McGovern**, Jonathan S. Kaplan and **Sara L. Estela**.



Corporate Partner **Jennifer Levitt** led the banking team in the Firm’s representation of Silver Lake in its strategic investment in Oak View Group. The team on this matter also included Partners Atif Azher, **Katharine P. Moir** and Jonathan Lindabury; Senior Counsel **Erin Murphy**; Counsel **Marcela Robledo** and **Kelly Karapetyan**; and Associates Simon Chiu, Blake Meyer, **Jacqueline B. Clinton**, **Mimi C. Cheng**, Alexander C. Ellebracht, **Marissa Lambert** and Timothy J. Mulvihill.



Litigation Partner **Sara Y. Razi** led the antitrust team in the Firm's representation of Mars in its strategic partnership with KIND. The team also included Partners Eric M. Swedenburg, Gregory T. Grogan and Jonathan Goldstein; Counsel **Krista B. McManus**; and Associates Michael Chao, Christopher R. Scavone, Jacob M. Phillips, **Morgan L. Otway** and John Goheen.



Corporate Partner **Caroline B. Gottschalk** led the Simpson Thacher team representing JPMorgan as the financial advisor to Sprint in its merger with T-Mobile US for a total implied enterprise value of approximately \$59 billion for Sprint and approximately \$146 billion for the combined company. The Simpson Thacher team also included Partner Mario A. Ponce and Associate Mark C. Viera.



Corporate Partner **Clare Gaskell** led a team representing KKR in connection with its announced acquisition of Unilever's global Spreads business for €6.825 billion (US\$8.02 billion). The Simpson Thacher team also included Partners Ian Barratt, Gil J. Strauss, **Sinead O'Shea**, Nicholas J. Shaw and David E. Vann; Senior Counsel **Meredith B. Jones**; Counsel **Kate Sinclair**; and Associates Charles Leeming, **Ying Yi Soh**, Christopher Vallance, **Emily Cornhill**, Ambarish Dash, Jason Lim, Noam Baruch Katz, Donovan Westbrook, **Alice Prinsley**, Preston Miller, John Skinner and William J. Smolinski.



Corporate Partner **Maripat Alpuche** led a Simpson Thacher team that represented JPMorgan Chase in connection with its acquisition of WePay Inc., a financial technology firm that delivers payments-as-a-service APIs for simple onboarding and activation of payments. The team also included Partners Laurence M. Moss, **Lori E. Lesser** and Jonathan Goldstein; Senior Counsel Steven R. DeLott and Adeeb R. Fadil; Counsel **Kelly Karapetyan** and Stephen M. Wiseman; Associates **Yui Hirohashi**, Sung Jin, Todd W. Noelle, **Alisa H. Tschorke**, Brian J. Mendick and Kenneth C. Ehrhard; and now-alumni **Linda Nyberg** and Michael Cook.



Corporate Partners **Kirsten J. Jensen** and **Celia Lam** led the Firm's representation of Foxconn Interconnect Technology Limited (FIT) in connection with its announced agreement to acquire Belkin International, Inc. for approximately \$866 million in cash. The team also included Partners Chris K.H. Lin, Peter Thomas, Tristan Brown and **Katharine P. Moir**; Counsel **Venus Lo**, **Ellen L. Frye**, **Kelly Karapetyan** and **Marcela Robledo**; Associates **Sherry Shen**, **Laura K. Berzins**, Jun Feng, William L. Kearney, David Shogren, Alexander C. Ellebracht, **Cecillia X. Xie**, **Jacqueline B. Clinton** and Timothy J. Mulvihill; and now-alumnae **Jackie Kerrin** and **Alexandra Saper**.



Tax Partner **Marcy G. Geller** led the tax team in the Firm's representation of WMIH in connection with its announced merger with Nationstar Mortgage Holdings for approximately \$3.8 billion in cash and WMIH shares, including the refinancing of outstanding debt. The Simpson Thacher team also included Partners Lee A. Meyerson, **Elizabeth A. Cooper**, Adam D. Shapiro, Richard A. Fenyas, David E. Rubinsky, **Lori E. Lesser** and Peter Guryan; Counsel **Ellen L. Frye**; and Associates Matthew Gabbard, Michael Chao, **Sunny Cheong**, **Sophie A. Staples**, Eric Wolf, Jason N. Fixelle, **Kate Stein** and **Cecillia X. Xie**.



Corporate Partner **Seema Shah**, along with Corporate Partner Jason Glover, led a Simpson Thacher team that represented BC Partners in connection with the raising of BC European Capital X, BC Partners' tenth flagship private equity fund, which has announced a final close at its €7 billion (US\$9.7 billion) target. The Simpson Thacher team included Partners Thomas H. Bell and John J. Creed; Senior Counsel **Jeanne M. Annarumma**; Counsel **Amanda McGovern** and Sam Wilson; and Associates **Amy Fox**, **Lauren Jenkins** and **Jacqueline B. Clinton**.



Corporate Partner **Jennifer L. Hobbs** led a team that represented Sungard Availability Services Capital ("SAS") in connection with a series of refinancing transactions closing in July 2017 and January 2018, completed to extend the maturity of SAS's senior secured credit facilities. The team on this transaction also included Partners Richard A. Fenyves, Elisha D. Graff, Michael H. Torkin and **Lori E. Lesser**; Counsel Timothy Gallagher; Associate Eli Isak; Law Clerk **Dorothy A. Hector**; and now-alumnus Scott Winston.



Corporate Partner **Hui Lin** led a team that represented Moss Creek Resources, a wholly owned subsidiary of Surge Energy U.S. Holdings Company, in connection with its inaugural bond offering of \$700 million aggregate principal amount of 7.5% Senior Notes due 2026 pursuant to Rule 144A and Regulation S. The Simpson Thacher team included, among others, Senior Counsel Jonathan E. Cantor and Adeeb R. Fadil; and Associates Timothy J. Mulvihill, Sung Bum Cho, Nathaniel K. Bascom, Kenneth Koo and **Monisha M. Bhayana**.

Please drop us a line at
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to let us know if you've changed
jobs, taken on a new role at your
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professional news to share.





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