

WOMEN'S CONNECTION

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Marissa C. Wesely
Women's Committee Chair

LETTER FROM THE WOMEN'S COMMITTEE CHAIR

Dear Friends:

It is amazing how quickly the months have flown since the December edition of the *Women's Connection*. There is so much to report here at the Firm that I am almost not sure where to begin.

SAVE THE DATE: A COCKTAIL RECEPTION FOR OUR ALUMNI

First and foremost, I'm delighted to tell you that we are planning a party for our alumni this fall. Please mark your calendars for a cocktail reception on October 13th (details to follow). This will be a wonderful chance for all of us to reconnect and catch up with old friends. We do hope you'll join us!

WOMEN PARTNERS RISING TO THE FOREFRONT OF THE LEGAL SCENE

The past few months have been marked by success after success for our women partners, so many of whom have been recognized as leaders in their fields.

In January, *The American Lawyer* named not one but three of our women

partners to their annual survey of the "45 Under 45" women lawyers. *The American Lawyer* recognized corporate partner **Jennifer L. Hobbs**, intellectual property partner **Lori E. Lesser** and litigation partner **Lynn K. Neuner** (all of the New York office) for their outstanding achievements.

In February, the *Silicon Valley/San Jose Business Journal* recognized litigation partner **Alexis S. Coll-Very** (Palo Alto office) as one of the 2011 Women of Influence in Silicon Valley.

In March, *Crain's New York Business* named corporate partner **Joyce Y. Xu** (New York office) to the "40 Under 40" Class of 2011, an elite group of New York business stars.

And in April, the Law Alumni Association of Duke Law School honored litigation partner **Linda H. Martin** (New York office) with the Young Alumni Award for her leadership role in the legal profession and her service to the school.

You can read more about these accolades in the pages that follow. I am truly awed by the many accomplishments of my fellow women partners, and I offer my warmest congratulations to all of them. I cannot wait to see what they do next!

INSPIRING PROGRAMMING FOR WOMEN ATTORNEYS

As part of our ongoing commitment to the retention and advancement of women attorneys, the Firm continues to offer exciting programs to engage and inspire women lawyers. In December, Brande Stelling, a Vice President at Catalyst, spoke at the Firm's quarterly women's lunch. Brande gave a presentation entitled "Successfully Managing Your Career: The Unwritten Rules."

In February, we hosted a Perspectives Series lunch featuring an engaging discussion with Ivy Thomas McKinney, Deputy General Counsel at Xerox.

In April, we teamed up with Accenture to host a "Women in Non-Profit Board Leadership Breakfast" at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. The program covered a range of topics relating to non-profit board leadership and board governance. Tax partner **Marcy G. Geller** (New York office) and Accenture partner Laila J. Worrell served as co-chairs of the event. Ellen Futter, President of the American Museum of Natural History, served as moderator. The panel included exempt organizations partner **Victoria B. Bjorklund** (New York office); Jenna Hager, Contributing Correspondent to *NBC's Today*; Ann Rubenstein Tisch, Founder of Young Women's Leadership Network; and Lulu Wang, Chief Executive Officer of Tupelo Capital Management.

GLANCING INSIDE THIS EDITION OF THE WOMEN'S CONNECTION

One of my favorite things about this newsletter is having the chance to showcase the professional successes of my former colleagues, many of whom I count

among my friends. This edition features profiles on:

- **Tara Wortman Gabbai** (STB '96-'06), now an Assistant General Counsel at Pfizer;
- **Jenny Lee Gillespie** (STB '00-'04), now Director of Legal Affairs at Discovery Communications; and
- **Julissa Reynoso** (STB '06-'09), who now serves as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Central America and the Caribbean in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs at the Department of State.

In addition, we have plenty of updates from other alumnae, all of whom are doing fabulous things with their careers. I hope you enjoy reading about their accomplishments as much as I have.

I wish all of you a wonderful summer and continued success in your professional and personal endeavors.

Marissa C. Wesely
Women's Committee Chair

P.S. Our next edition is coming out in December, and we'd love to include **you**. Please take a few minutes to [let us know](#) what you are up to and how your career is progressing. Click [here](#) to update your profile in the Firm's alumni database. Providing us with your updated contact information will ensure that we include you on important distributions and invite you to complimentary CLE and alumni events. We look forward to hearing from you.



Tara Wortman Gabbai

ALUMNA PROFILE
PURSuing HER PASSIONS AT
PFIZER: A CONVERSATION WITH
TARA WORTMAN GABBAI

For **Tara Wortman Gabbai** (STB '96-'06), now an Assistant General Counsel at Pfizer, downtime is in very short supply. She spends her days preparing and reviewing corporate disclosures, advising and interfacing with the company's scientists and executives, and creating and reviewing materials for Pfizer's board of directors, to name just a few of her many responsibilities. Tara's work does not end at the close of business, however. With six year-old twins and a four year-old, Tara spends her evenings and weekends handling everything from bedtime to birthday parties. Her life is packed with nonstop activity, and Tara wouldn't have it any other way. "If you are passionate about what you are doing," she says happily, "you can always find ways to make it all work."

Tara credits her ability to do it all successfully, in part, to composure under pressure and a knack for quickly spotting the important issues. "Being able to figure out what is time sensitive and important versus what can wait is critical to success in an in-house legal department," explains Tara. "Building relationships and understanding the big picture are also key."

When Tara left Simpson Thacher in 2006, she had spent nearly a decade in the Firm's Capital Markets & Securities group. The decision to leave the Firm to join Wyeth (which later was acquired by Pfizer) was one of the hardest she ever had to make. At the time, her children were very young. The move offered her the chance to work much closer to her New

Jersey home, and the opportunity to commence the next stage of her career.

Joining the high activity legal department at Wyeth proved to be a perfect move for Tara, who loves being part of the fast-paced biopharmaceutical industry. "Not only are there an endless number of fascinating projects and issues to tackle, but it is also immensely rewarding to be part of an industry whose mission is to advance health and improve people's lives," she says. Still, she looks back on her time at Simpson Thacher with great fondness. Tara credits the Firm with giving her "amazing training" that prepared her for the corporate world. "With the training you receive at Simpson Thacher, you really can do anything you want to do, in any industry," she says.

In 2009, when Pfizer acquired Wyeth, Tara was on the deal team for the transaction. She enjoyed the opportunity to work closely with partners from her alma mater, this time as a client. After the transaction closed, Pfizer selected some key leaders in the Wyeth legal department to remain, and Tara was among them.

Joining Pfizer—a large, multi-national corporation with operations spanning human and animal medicines and vaccines, nutritionals and consumer healthcare products—has proven professionally satisfying. While she had been the chief securities and finance lawyer at Wyeth, she is now part of the Corporate Governance team at Pfizer, which has responsibility for, among other things, securities law and public disclosures, financings, corporate governance, board interaction, shareholder services and corporate policies. She has also had an opportunity



Jenny Lee Gillespie

to get involved in mergers and acquisitions engagements, recently working on Pfizer's acquisition of King Pharmaceuticals. "I have learned a tremendous amount in a short time," says Tara of her roles at Pfizer and Wyeth. "It is also an invaluable experience to be working in the governance space at Pfizer, which is a recognized leader in the field."

While Wyeth was headquartered in New Jersey, Pfizer's offices are in midtown Manhattan, not far from the Firm's New York office. The commute might have taken a toll on Tara's ability to balance her life, had it not been for Pfizer's willingness to let Tara work from home a few days a week. She plans her work-at-home days around meetings and other in-office commitments, so no two weeks are exactly the same.

Though Tara does more in a day than many of us do in a week, she still manages to find time to work on a women's initiative at Pfizer. **Melissa Chang Gunn** (STB '97-'00), a fellow former Simpson Thacher associate who is now Senior Corporate Counsel at Pfizer, conceived the concept of the Pfizer Legal Division Women's Network, which offers inspiring programming on leadership skills and networking opportunities for women in the company's legal and compliance divisions. Tara serves on the organization's Steering Committee. If you're wondering how she finds the time, here's what Tara has to say: "All aspects of my life are so important that I find a way to make it all work." And, she adds with a laugh, "Downtime is overrated anyway!"

ALUMNA PROFILE REDEFINING HERSELF AT DISCOVERY COMMUNICATIONS: A DISCUSSION WITH JENNY LEE GILLESPIE

At the height of the financial crisis, former corporate associate **Jenny Lee Gillespie** (STB '00-'04) was part of the in-house legal team at Freddie Mac, where she focused on mortgage securitization. When the Department of Treasury placed Freddie Mac under conservatorship in the fall of 2008, she knew that the time was right to look for a new opportunity, perhaps even in a different area of the law.

Jenny had "dipped her toes" into intellectual property law during her four-year tenure at the Firm. Approximately one-fifth of her caseload consisted of intellectual property work on major corporate transactions. However, she spent the vast majority of her time on M&A and securities work.

As Jenny began searching for a new job in the wake of the Freddie Mac takeover, the opportunity arose to handle licensing agreements and other intellectual property related matters for Discovery Communications, one of the world's leading media and entertainment companies. Discovery owns major cable television networks, including Discovery Channel, TLC and Animal Planet, and operates several other cable networks as joint ventures, including the Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN). The company has begun expanding its reach far beyond just television. Discovery has an extensive product licensing program encompassing everything from books to toys; a tour and travel program (Discovery Adventures); and a traveling MythBusters exhibition

scheduled for multiple science museums across the country.

During the interview process, Jenny was completely candid about her limited experience in the area of intellectual property law. Discovery hired her anyway. The versatility of her legal skills, her can-do attitude, and her willingness and ability to tackle a steep learning curve made her the perfect person for the job. Jenny was also in the right place at the right time. "Discovery was changing its corporate strategy, and the company needed someone to step in quickly," she explains. She wasted no time in rolling up her sleeves and getting started.

Jenny is now a Director of Legal Affairs at Discovery. She handles all corporate legal matters that do not directly deal with production companies or talent. Roughly half of Jenny's work involves monetizing the Discovery brand in some form or another—whether through negotiating publishing agreements with publishers for a talent's autobiographies relating to a Discovery show, handling the arrangement for naming rights of a building in Times Square (Discovery Times Square Exposition) or promoting the company through co-sponsorships on a variety of products, from Kraft's Lunchables to Purina webisodes. The other half of Jenny's job entails a mix of corporate contracts for the digital media arms of each network (including HowStuffWorks.com), as well as the advertising arm of the company.

Most of the transactions Jenny works on are unique arrangements for which no "cookie cutter" agreement will do. She often finds herself starting from scratch

when negotiating and drafting these agreements, because there is almost always something different or unusual about the deal at hand. Jenny loves the challenge of constantly learning new things. "I don't know exactly what's going to happen each day," she says, and that's part of what makes her work so much fun.

In addition to her fast-paced, ever-changing job, Jenny is also raising a very young family. She just had her third child, and her oldest is not yet four. What has helped to make her juggling act possible is Discovery's lifestyle-oriented corporate culture. A wonderful perk is the Discovery day care center, housed in the same building in which Jenny works. Each morning, she and her children drive in to work together, and then they go their separate ways. When she wants to pop in and say hello, she simply has to ride the elevator downstairs.

In many ways, Jenny reinvented herself in the aftermath of the financial crisis, going from a lawyer focused on securities work to a specialist in intellectual property licensing agreements. The change was not easy, but Jenny had little trouble switching gears. To young lawyers who yearn to leap into a new practice area, Jenny offers plenty of helpful advice. First, "do your diligence." Make sure to read up on your desired new field, so that you are conversant in the lingo and the latest developments. Second, "enthusiasm" and "willingness to do the dirty work" can go a long, long way. Show people that you are confident in your own abilities and hard-working enough to go the extra mile, advises Jenny, and they will be open to giving you a chance.



Julissa Reynoso

ALUMNA PROFILE IN THE CENTER OF U.S. DIPLOMACY INITIATIVES: A PERSPECTIVE FROM JULISSA REYNOSO

Barely three months into her new position as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Central America and the Caribbean in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs at the Department of State, former associate **Julissa Reynoso** (STB '06-'09) faced one of the biggest challenges of her career. A catastrophic earthquake had just ravaged the small Caribbean nation of Haiti, and Julissa was quickly called into action. She, along with a team from throughout the United States Government, worked to orchestrate one of the largest rescue missions in recent history. Among the dead were a number of U.S. Department of State employees and family members who had been serving in Haiti, as well as more than one hundred United Nations personnel, including the Head of the UN Stabilization Mission.

In many ways, the Haitian disaster transformed the humanitarian role of the United States on the world stage. The Obama administration wasted no time in launching a relief effort of historic proportions. At one point, in the immediate aftermath of the quake, the United States had search and rescue teams, medical personnel, engineers and all forms of personnel in Haiti to assist the local government with emergency medical services, transportation and reconstruction. The United States also invested more than \$1 billion in post-quake relief and rebuilding, and helped to arrange a coalition of 140 countries to provide assistance to the damaged nation.

Supporting Haiti is just one of Julissa's

many areas of focus in her new job. When she left Simpson Thacher to join the Department of State in November 2009, Julissa became responsible for representing U.S. foreign policy interests with respect to 23 countries in Central America and the Caribbean. As a senior official in the State Department, Julissa works under Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, for whom she campaigned during the 2008 elections. (She later campaigned for President Obama, after he won the Democratic nomination.)

Julissa has never been as "on call" as she is now. She sleeps with two Blackberries on her nightstand, and often lies awake at night thinking about the many "what ifs" of her day-to-day responsibilities. As a senior official in the Department of State, Julissa shoulders an enormous burden. "If I make a mistake," she explains, "the consequences could be huge."

Julissa credits her time at the Firm, juggling antitrust engagements and international arbitration matters, with helping her to become who she is today. "The essential skill set of negotiating and problem solving was something I learned at Simpson Thacher," she says. She once brought those skills to bear on behalf of the Firm's clients; she now represents perhaps the most important client in the world: the government of the United States of America.

ALUMNAE NOTES

After ten years as an associate in both the corporate and Exempt Organizations groups, **Karen Ann Alinauskas-Love** (STB '01-'11) is embarking on a new adventure. She has established a solo

practice focusing on art/media/entertainment, exempt-organization and general transactional matters. In March, Karen gave birth to her first child, Robert Fielding Love.

Following nine years as a litigation associate, **Helena Almeida** (STB '01-'10) has joined Siemens Corporation as Litigation Counsel. Based in New Jersey, Helena's position primarily involves managing and coordinating litigation and litigation strategy related to Siemens Financial Services, Inc.

Once a Labor and Employment Law associate at the Firm, **Christina M. Berti** (STB '89-'94) is now Director and Counsel at Deutsche Bank in New York. Christina's practice focuses on internal investigations of discrimination issues and other employment law matters. She is an active member of her department's diversity council, focusing on work-life balance initiatives, and also participates in other diversity groups at Deutsche Bank. She and her husband, Peter Litwin, reside in Rumson, New Jersey, and have three children, Sophie (16), Perry (14) and Rosie (13).

After more than a decade in the Firm's Banking and Credit group, **Stefanie Birkmann** (STB '99-'11) has joined Ropes & Gray as a partner. Stefanie represents private equity firms, corporate borrowers, investment and commercial banks, and other borrowers and lenders in complex financings.

Previously Counsel in the Firm's Capital Markets and Securities group, **Simone E. Bono** (STB '01-'11) has joined the London offices of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer as a partner in the U.S. Securities Group. Simone's practice

focuses on high yield bond offerings, debt restructurings, initial public offerings and other corporate finance transactions.

Charlene A. Caprio (STB '07-'10) is serving as a legal consultant for Archipelagos, Institute of Marine Conservation, an organization located in Greece.

Once a litigation associate, **Sasha A. Carbone** (STB '98-'01) is now Associate General Counsel at the American Arbitration Association. Her role involves supporting all aspects of the Association's business, including reviewing various policies and rules that govern dispute resolution proceedings administered by the Association and defending the Association in litigation-related matters involving the Association or its arbitrators. She is also the Chair of the Association's Diversity Committee.

Former litigation associate **Margaret Ciavarella** (STB '07-'11) now practices with the Commercial Litigation Department of Seyfarth Shaw. She has handled matters in a wide variety of substantive areas, including securities, RICO, insurance, breach of fiduciary duty, products liability, class actions and white collar, among others.

Former corporate associate **Jackie (Mintz) Cohen** (STB '97-'01) was elected to the partnership at Weil, Gotshal & Manges as of January 1, 2011. Jackie is a member of the firm's Mergers & Acquisitions practice. She regularly represents companies in connection with mergers, acquisitions and divestitures. She also advises clients on corporate governance issues, and represents acquirers, targets, buy-out groups, boards of directors, special committees, investment banks, investors

and shareholder groups in complex domestic and international negotiated and unsolicited transactions.

Previously a litigation associate, **Alison J. Winick Dow** (STB '99-'04) has been with Virgin Mobile (now part of Sprint Nextel) since 2007, and is now Senior Counsel in the Sprint Commercial Law Group. She provides IP and IT transactional support for several business units in the organization, including Products and Mobile Data Services, Emerging Solutions, and Network and IT Operations. She lives in New York City with her husband, Ian, and two daughters, Emily (3 ½) and Keira (20 months).

Chantale Fiebig (STB '06-'07/'08-'10), formerly a litigation associate at the Firm, is now an Assistant United States Attorney in Detroit, Michigan. Her practice focuses on criminal and civil appeals.

Former corporate associate **Melissa Chang Gunn** (STB '97-'00) is now a Senior Corporate Counsel at Pfizer. She led acquisitions and licensing deals at Pfizer for 5 years and is now a global product attorney in the oncology business unit. She co-founded the Legal Division Women's Network at Pfizer in 2009. She is married to landscape architect, Alec Gunn, and has two sons, Logan (4) and Max (16 months).

Once a litigation associate, **Amanda G. Huttenlocher (Motsinger)** (STB '05-'08) is now at Goldman Sachs, as a Vice President in the firm's Jersey City office. Amanda is co-head of the Americas Control Room within the Global Compliance Division and she focuses on preservation of the firm's information barriers and compliance with various regulatory and securities law mandates.

Former litigation associate **Martha Kimes** (STB '97-'98 and '00-'01) is now Senior Intellectual Property Counsel with GoDaddy.com, Inc., the world's largest domain name registrar and web hosting provider. Martha is in charge of Go Daddy's international brand protection strategy, managing and enforcing the company's trademarks, copyrights, and other intellectual property rights. She also works with the IP community to assist brand owners in preventing infringement online. She lives with her family in Scottsdale, Arizona.

After several years as a tax associate, **Jennifer P. Klein** (STB '07-'11) now practices with Loeb, Block & Partners. Jen's practice focuses on international tax law and estate planning.

Previously a litigation associate, **Starling Marshall** (STB '05-'08) is now a trial attorney with the Department of Justice. Starling represents the government in civil tax litigation before the Court of Federal Claims on matters ranging from decommissioning liabilities of nuclear power plants to the employment status of workers throughout the entertainment industry. Starling also assists the DOJ in pre-nomination vetting of federal judicial candidates. Prior to joining the DOJ, Starling served as a law clerk for the Honorable Judge Victor Marrero in the Southern District of New York ('08-'09).

Once a corporate associate, **Melissa McMahan** (STB '85-'92) is a Managing Director and Associate General Counsel in the investment bank legal department of JPMorgan, where she has been since she left the Firm.

After two years as a litigation associate and a prior career as an engineer and

mechanical design consultant, **Larisa Migachyov** (STB '09-'11) has opened a solo patent prosecution practice in Palo Alto, California to help individual inventors obtain intellectual property protection for their inventions. She holds one patent for an invention of her own. Her website is www.lvmpatents.com.

Former Simpson Labor and Employment Law group associate, **Risa M. Mish** (STB '89-'93) is now Senior Lecturer of Leadership at the Johnson Graduate School of Management at Cornell University where she oversees the MBA leadership program and teaches courses in Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Team Leadership and Social Entrepreneurship. In 2009, Risa was selected by the MBA graduating class to receive the Apple Teaching Award, which honors the member of the faculty whom the class believes has demonstrated the qualities of "outstanding leadership and enduring educational influence." Risa is very grateful to have learned such excellent critical thinking and team leadership skills from several role models at the Firm.

Once associates in the Firm's ERISA and Executive Compensation and Employee Benefits practice, **Robin M. Quittell** (STB'01-'04) serves as Head Compensation and Benefits Counsel at Fortress Investment Group, and **Wonda M. Quinn** (STB '05-'11), serves as Compensation and Benefits Counsel at Fortress. Robin and Wonda work closely together to oversee all issues relating to compensation and employment at Fortress, including international hiring, equity-based awards, and implementation of various incentive arrangements and

programs in the company's offices worldwide.

After several years as a corporate associate, **Maria Fernanda Rocha Barros** (STB '07-'11) is now Legal Director, M&A and Commercial, at Anheuser-Busch InBev, the leading global brewer and one of the world's top five consumer product companies. Maria supports the AB-Inbev Global M&A and the International Market Development teams at AB-InBev's management function office in New York. Her practice focuses on cross-border M&A transactions and negotiations of joint ventures and other commercial relationships with foreign business partners across Europe, Asia and Latin America.

Jennifer A. Ross (STB '09-'10), a former corporate associate, returned to her hometown just outside of the nation's capital. In January, she joined the Washington, D.C. office of Zuckerman Spaeder LLP, a national boutique litigation firm recognized for its work in white collar defense and complex civil litigation. Her practice currently includes government investigation and commercial litigation, and she is looking forward to tackling more new challenges.

Once an associate with the Firm, **Suzanne Baillie Schmitt** (STB '79-'82) is now a Managing Editor at Thomson Reuters (TR). She works on tax-related products under the brand name RIA, and also is responsible for coordinating media contacts with TR's Federal Tax Department.

Previously an associate in the Firm's Banking and Credit group, **Aba Schubert** (STB '00-'05) is General Counsel, Europe with Eton Park International, a multi-strategy alternative investment firm.

Currently based in London, Aba has responsibilities on both the institutional and investing sides of the business. At present, she is most active in the firm's private equity/illiquid, event driven and distressed strategies, where she is able to draw upon her educational backgrounds in math and law and the analytical and transactional experience she gained during her years with Simpson Thacher.

Hon. Brenda S. Spears (STB '77-'81) of New York County's Housing Court, was once a litigation associate at Simpson. Judge Spears presently hears non-jury trials involving all issues relating to housing in Manhattan, except those cases brought by New York City for housing violations.

Wendy M. Swary (STB '00-'05) is now Assistant General Counsel with The Ohio State University after having been an associate in the Firm's Executive Compensation and Employee Benefits group. In her new role, she advises on employee benefits matters and tax issues. Wendy and her husband Andrew have two children, Sebastian (age 6) and Vivian (age 2).

Former international associate **Fionna Tsu** (STB '06-'07) is now Legal Counsel with Merrill Lynch, and works in the company's São Paulo office.

Once an associate in the Firm's Real Estate group, **Merin Elizabeth Urban** (STB '85-'89) is now Executive Agency Counsel with the New York City Department of Housing, Preservation and Development, the nation's largest municipal housing agency whose primary responsibilities include the creation of new affordable housing units; the preservation of existing units in the

City's housing stock; and the enforcement of the City's Housing Maintenance Code. She is involved with dispositions of City-owned property and the construction and financing of multi-family and large mixed use real estate projects, and works extensively with the Agency's Inclusionary Housing Program, which provides zoning bonuses for certain developments in return for the creation of permanent affordable housing.

Former litigation associate **Martha Verscaj** (STB '80-'85) now serves as Vice President and Associate General Counsel at AXA-Equitable, a subsidiary of AXA SA, a worldwide financial services company headquartered in France. Martha manages AXA-Equitable's complex litigation portfolio, including several large class actions and litigations involving major coverage disputes. She lives in Bronxville, New York with her two daughters, ages 13 and 18.

SIMPSON THACHER TODAY - AND THE AWARD GOES TO...

On December 13th, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights honored Exempt Organizations partner **Victoria B. Bjorklund** with the 2010 Segal-Tweed Founders Award for her outstanding *pro bono* service in the field of civil rights. She has served on the Lawyers' Committee board for 25 years, succeeding Cyrus R. Vance and joining Conrad K. Harper as the Firm's representative. Victoria's many notable civil rights contributions include her work on the Lawyers' Committee Election Protection program, which has provided nonpartisan *pro bono* assistance to tens of thousands of voters and voting

officials. Victoria personally funded a significant portion of the start-up costs for the program, and the Firm has supported the program since 2006.

This past December, the City Bar Justice Center honored corporate associate **Vanessa Bressler** (New York office) for her work with the Refugee Assistance Project (RAP). Vanessa has been volunteering with the RAP since 2004, and has successfully represented six asylum seekers from various countries, including Colombia, Sierra Leone, Mauritania and the Ivory Coast, with claims ranging from female genital mutilation to persecution based on religious beliefs or political activities. She currently oversees the Firm's asylum program, through which she has also helped countless other *pro bono* clients.

The *Silicon Valley/San Jose Business Journal* named litigation partner **Alexis S. Coll-Very** one of the 2011 Women of Influence. Alexis was featured in a special edition of the paper in March, and was honored at an awards dinner in April.

In January, *The American Lawyer* named corporate partner **Jennifer L. Hobbs**, intellectual property partner **Lori E. Lesser** and litigation partner **Lynn K. Neuner** to its prestigious "45 Under 45" list, an elite group of the "best of the best" among young women lawyers in The Am Law 200 firms.

The special "45 Under 45" feature article noted that Jennifer's "client list reads like a who's who of private equity players." Clients praised Jennifer for "her willingness to dive into any assignment with gusto and her commercial savvy." As for Lori, the article quoted a client who observed that "[n]o one can go head-to-

head with [Lesser]...[t]hat's how much credibility she brings to the table." And Lynn, whose "work is wide-ranging," won client accolades as an "an eloquent oral advocate and master of the facts and the law."

In addition to this trio, the feature edition of *The American Lawyer* also quoted corporate partner **Kathryn King Sudol** (Hong Kong office), and mentioned corporate partners **Marissa C. Wesely** and **James D. Cross** (New York office).

This past April, the Law Alumni Association of Duke Law School honored litigation partner **Linda H. Martin** with the 2011 Young Alumni Award. The award honors alumni who have graduated within the past fifteen years, and have made significant leadership and service contributions to Duke Law School and the legal profession.

In March, *Crain's New York Business* named corporate partner **Joyce Y. Xu** to the "40 Under 40" Class of 2011, an elite group of rising New York business stars from across a multitude of industries and backgrounds. *Crain's* recognized Joyce for her extensive experience and leadership in the derivatives field, giving her "top marks [for] translating complex derivative deals into plain English." Earlier this year, in January, the Chinese Business Lawyers Association awarded Joyce with the Outstanding Achievement Award and honored her at the organization's annual New Year Banquet.

SIMPSON THACHER TODAY - IN THE HEADLINES

On March 21st, the *San Francisco Daily Journal* featured litigation partner **Alexis**

S. Coll-Very on the cover and quoted her in connection with an article entitled "U.S. Law Barring Bribes Abroad is Heavily Used but Rarely Tested." The article addressed the lack of case law on the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA). Alexis, who frequently guides corporations through FCPA investigations, offered suggestions on how corporations can understand what the government considers a violation of the FCPA in order to avoid regulatory investigations and enforcement actions.

New York One featured Personal Planning partner **Laura M. Twomey** (New York office) in a news segment on "Money Matters" this past January. Laura discussed the importance of creating a will.

SIMPSON THACHER TODAY - NOTEWORTHY PUBLICATIONS

Litigation associate **Emma Lindsay** (New York office) was a member of the drafting committee for the New York City Bar Association's recent report on the disputed African territory of Western Sahara. The report, prepared by the City Bar's United Nations Committee and published last month, examines the international law issues involved in the use by Morocco of natural resources within the territory of Western Sahara.

Litigation partner **Mary Elizabeth (Libby) McGarry** (New York office) continues to write a regular column for the *New York Law Journal* entitled "New York Court of Appeals Roundup," which she has co-authored with **Roy L. Reardon** (also of the New York office) since 1998. Since the last issue of the *Women's Connection*, the *New York Law Journal* has

published four of these columns covering some of the Court of Appeals' most significant decisions.

Head of the Personal Planning Department and partner **Pamela L. Rollins** and personal planning associate **Nicole Bari Rubin** (both of the New York office) co-authored a book entitled "Irrevocable Life Insurance Trusts Line by Line," published by Aspatore (a division of West) this past January. The book is a comprehensive examination of an irrevocable insurance trust agreement for an estate planning attorney. It explains the reasoning behind the various clauses in the trust agreement, noting those which may be customized for the Donor and the "boiler-plate" language which should be in every irrevocable insurance trust agreement. The book covers key topics such as Estate, Gift and Generation Skipping Transfer Taxes, "incidents of ownership," the "three-year rule," "Crummey powers" and annual exclusion gifts.

SIMPSON THACHER TODAY - ENGAGING SPEAKING

Exempt Organizations partner **Victoria B. Bjorklund** and litigation associate **Alicia N. Washington** (New York office) spoke at an alumni panel at the Columbia Black Law Students Association's "Discover Conference" held in March. The conference aimed to introduce minority high school students to the legal profession.

On April 1st, litigation partner **Mary Beth Forshaw** (New York office) spoke at the Defense Research Institute's annual "Insurance Coverage and Claims Institute," a Chicago-based conference

attended by over 400 insurance company professionals and lawyers who practice in the insurance coverage area. Mary Beth's presentation addressed the coverage issues that arise in the wake of mass product recalls.

Litigation associate **Katherine A. Helm** (New York office) spoke at Suffolk Law School's "Challenging Judicial Independence" conference, held in Boston this past February. The conference addressed Iowa voters' November rejection of three Supreme Court Justices who were candidates for retention. All three had joined the unanimous Iowa Supreme Court decision permitting same-sex marriage in the state. One of the ousted Justices, Michael J. Streit, was on the conference panel, along with three Massachusetts judges.

Earlier this month, corporate partner **Jennifer L. Hobbs** spoke at the New York City Bar program entitled "Leveraged M&A: Navigating Debt Financing Issues in M&A Transactions." Jennifer participated in a panel on "Negotiating Debt Documents."

Pro Bono Counsel **Harlene Katzman** (New York office) served as a panelist at the New York City Bar program entitled "Three's a Conversation: Best Practices in *Pro Bono*" in February. The program brought together over 80 companies, law firms and legal service organizations to discuss improving the business of doing *pro bono* work.

Intellectual property partner **Lori E. Lesser** moderated a panel entitled "A View from the Trenches: Hot Issues, Creative Solutions" at the Practising Law Institute's "Social Media 2011: Addressing Corporate Risks" program this past

March. In May, Lori spoke at the Practising Law Institute's "Advanced Seminar on Copyright Law 2011." She presented on "Internet Copyright Issues," addressing topics ranging from user-generated content, blogs and social network sites to safe harbors and notice-and-takedown procedures.

In March, litigation partner **Linda H. Martin** teamed up with litigation associates **Juan A. Arteaga** and **Brian P. McCloskey** and corporate associate **Ryan M. Gavin** (all of the New York office) to speak on a Firm-hosted panel for students in the Columbia Society of International Law. They addressed the international aspects of their respective practices, and gave examples of specific ways in which international law, comity, discovery and similar issues have impacted their cases and deals.

Earlier this month, corporate partner **Risë Norman** (New York office) spoke on a panel entitled "Securities Market Update" at the New York City Bar Association's 12th Annual Corporate & Securities Law Update: Advising Clients on Whistleblower, Social Media & Social Networking Developments. Risë discussed IPO developments, whistleblower and clawback developments.

In early December, Exempt Organizations Counsel **Jennifer I. Reynoso** (New York office) spoke at the Foundation for Accounting Education's "Exempt Organizations Conference," addressing the latest issues affecting nonprofit organizations. Jennifer discussed the types of international activities that trigger reporting, why it matters to the Treasury and what organizations should be reporting. In February, Jennifer and

Exempt Organizations associate **Jillian P. Diamant** (also of the New York office) spoke at the New York County Lawyers' Association CLE program entitled "The New York Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act: What Non-Profits Need to Know." In March, Jennifer spoke again, this time on the topic of restricted and endowment funds at the New York City Bar's CLE program entitled "The Role of an Attorney on a Non-Profit Board."

Corporate partner **Marisa D. Stavenas** and Executive Compensation and Employee Benefits partner **Andrea K. Wahlquist**, with invaluable assistance from Executive Compensation and Employee Benefits associates **Jennifer Pepin** and **Samantha A. Shipp**, (all of the New York office) spearheaded a partnership between the Kate Stoneman Project and the Sadie Nash Leadership Project to offer an eight-course series to teach young women about the legal profession and the life of a lawyer. Highlights from the series included a celebrity mock trial and a courthouse visit. The participants gained experience that boosted their negotiating, public speaking, writing and analytical skills. As you may know from previous issues of the *Women's Connection*, the Kate Stoneman Project, organized by women partners from ten leading Manhattan law firms, provides a forum to address the advancement of women attorneys, among other goals. The mission of the Sadie Nash Leadership Project is to promote leadership and activism among young women. Former Simpson Thacher corporate associate **Lauren Ezrol Klein** ('91-'96), now Vice President and Deputy General Counsel at Time Inc., is the

co-chair of the board of directors of Sadie Nash.

In January, corporate associate **Sara L. Terheggen** (Los Angeles office) co-chaired a Los Angeles event hosted by 100 Women in Hedge Funds entitled "Investing Trends in 2011." Sara is a founding member and current chair of the Southern California Chapter of 100 Women in Hedge Funds.

Litigation partner **Mary Kay Vyskocil** (New York office) spoke at the 18th Annual "Insurance Insolvency & Reinsurance Roundtable" held in Phoenix in late March. Mary Kay spoke on a panel entitled "Oil in the Gulf: Top Concerns for Insurers and Reinsurers." She discussed damages and liability, coverage complications, potential reinsurer liability, and privilege and confidentiality issues.

Corporate partner **Marissa C. Wesely** spoke at the 2011 Emerging Leaders Global Summit, a Womensphere-sponsored conference held in New York this past January. Marissa spoke at the conference's opening panel entitled "Women & Leadership in the World: Models and Insights on Impact and Innovation." In February, Marissa participated in a program entitled "Current Market Trends in Leveraged Finance Commitment Papers: Post-Crash Developments and Pre-Crash Remnants," sponsored by The Loan Syndication and Trading Association. In May, Marissa spoke again at the Practising Law Institute's "Leveraged Financing 2011" program. Corporate partner **Frank Huck** (New York office) served as co-chair of the program, and spoke on a panel entitled "Leveraged Financing Today." Marissa spoke on a panel entitled "Acquisition Agreement Terms in Leveraged Transactions."

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