



The following section features attorneys who have demonstrated leadership qualities and have achieved the AV Preeminent rating by Martindale-Hubbell®.

Martindale-Hubbell®, the company that has long set the standard for lawyer ratings, has supplied ALM with a list of Top Rated Lawyers who have achieved an AV® Preeminent® Peer Review Rating, the highest rating in legal ability and ethical standards. To create this section, Martindale-Hubbell® tapped its comprehensive database of Martindale-Hubbell® Peer Review Ratings™ to identify lawyers who have been rated by their peers to be AV® Preeminent™.

Martindale Hubbell Peer Review Ratings are driven by the confidential opinions of lawyers and members of the judiciary who receive invitations from Martindale-Hubbell®, via an online survey or by mail, to provide reviews of lawyers of whom they have professional knowledge.

A complete directory of all AV® Preeminent™ lawyers can be found online at Lawyers.com® and Martindale.com, in the Martindale-Hubbell® Law Directory in print and CD-ROM formats, and online through the LexisNexis® services and at lexis.com. Attorneys shown do not constitute the full list of "Top Rated Lawyers"



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WOMEN LEADERS IN LAW

Berman Tabacco is one of the country's premier class action law firms focused on complex business and fraud litigation, with attorneys in Boston and San Francisco. Kathleen M. Donovan-Maher and Nicole Lavallee are the Managing Partners of Berman Tabacco's Boston and San Francisco offices, respectively, and members of the firm's Executive Committee.

Kathleen focuses her practice on prosecuting complex class actions, including RICO, ERISA, securities and whistleblower cases, and has served as lead or co-lead counsel in large, complex cases in federal courts around the country. Nicole focuses her practice on complex litigation, particularly securities litigation and has also served as lead counsel in numerous large securities fraud class actions and derivative actions.

In addition to being ranked AV® Preeminent™ by Martindale-Hubbell®, Kathleen and Nicole have each been recognized for their work by various organizations, including Chambers USA, Benchmark Litigation, The Best Lawyers in America®, The Legal 500, Lawdragon, and/or Super Lawyers.



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KATHLEEN M. DONOVAN-MAHER



NICOLE LAVALLEE

NEW JERSEY FLORHAM PARK

Sandra Brown Sherman and Jane L. Brody are partners in the trusts and estates practice at Sherman Atlas Sylvester & Stamelman LLP. Each of Sandie and Jane value the long-standing and close relationships she has with her clients.

Sandie focuses on estate planning and administration for her clients and their families which has allowed her to build and strengthen those relationships and to carry them through into the next generation. Sandie is a trustee of the New Jersey Health Foundation and of the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Metrowest, and she is a director of the F.M. Kirby Foundation. She is also a member of the Legal, Wealth & Tax Advisory Committee of the Community Foundation of New Jersey, the Planned Giving Task Force of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, and the Strategic Planning Committee of the Discovery Orchestra. In addition to being ranked AV® Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell®, Sandie has been recognized by Best Lawyers in America®, New Jersey Super Lawyers, Worth® Magazine and NJ Biz Best Women in Business.

Jane provides advice to clients in the areas of estate planning, estate administration, family and business succession planning, business counseling including planning for closely held businesses and their owners, general business law and commercial law. Like Sandie, she has strong relationships with her clients and their families. Jane is a member of the Legal, Wealth & Tax Advisory Committee of the Community Foundation of New Jersey. In addition to being ranked AV® Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell®, Jane has been recognized by Best Lawyers in America®, New Jersey Super Lawyers, Worth® Magazine and Marquis Who's Who in American Law®.

With offices in Florham Park, New Jersey, and Midtown Manhattan, Sherman Atlas Sylvester & Stamelman offers the talent and experience we've gained working with large, prominent law firms, but employed with the efficiency of a mid-size firm.

Our senior attorneys are some of the most highly respected in their disciplines in the New Jersey/New York area, and we have hand-picked talented younger attorneys and paraprofessionals to help grow our firm. We handle the legal and business needs of a broad range of clients, from Fortune 100 corporations to closely-held businesses to individuals and families, in the following practice areas: Banking and Financial Services; Broker-Dealer Litigation and Arbitration; Commercial and Business Litigation; Corporate Law; Estate Planning and Estate Administration; Estate and Fiduciary Litigation; Real Estate; Executive Compensation; Intellectual Property and Technology; Media and Entertainment; Mergers and Acquisitions; and Taxation

Recognized by NJBIZ as one of the Best Places to Work in New Jersey since 2016, Sherman Atlas strives to continue to be a forward-thinking company where our dedication to professional growth and quality of life makes a difference.



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**SANDRA BROWN
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JANE L. BRODY

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MARCIA S. WAGNER

MARCIA S. WAGNER the founder and managing partner of The Wagner Law Group, a certified woman-owned and operated business established in 1996 and widely recognized as the country's top ERISA and employee benefits law firm. She is recognized as an expert in ERISA, employee benefits and executive compensation matters, including ERISA fiduciary law, qualified and non-qualified retirement plans, all forms of deferred compensation, and welfare benefit arrangements.

Ms. Wagner has been inducted as a Fellow of the American College of Employee Benefits Counsel, an invitation-only organization of nationally-recognized employee benefits lawyers with 20 or more years of experience, is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell and has been listed in the Top 50 Women Lawyers in New England in New England Super Lawyers Magazine.

Ms. Wagner has written hundreds of articles and 24 books. She is a highly sought after expert witness and lecturer, and is widely quoted in The Wall Street Journal, Barron's, Financial Times, and Pension & Investments. She has been a guest on Fox, CNN, Bloomberg, and NBC.



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TEXAS DALLAS

MICHELLE O'NEIL

When fellow family law attorneys need expertise about special family law matters, they turn to Michelle O'Neil. A "lawyer's lawyer," O'Neil has developed a reputable niche in family law appeals. Her work extends further than appealing to a higher court about what may be deemed an unfair decision in family law courts. She is often called upon by lawyers to co-counsel cases to assist with complex family law matters.

O'Neil has tried more than 30 family law jury trials and handled more than 175 cases in the Texas appellate courts, some of which involve questions of first impression in family law cases. "My unique specialty combination of handling litigation and appellate family law matters gives me a depth of perception other lawyers don't always have," she says. "I can help work through the nuances of family law, whether it's a divorce, complex property division case, or a same-sex custody matter."

Described by one lawyer as a "lethal combination of sweet and salty," O'Neil exudes genuine compassion for her clients' difficulties, yet she can be relentless when in pursuit of their goals. Board Certified in Family Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization since 1997, O'Neil has been named to Texas Super Lawyers every year from 2011 to present in family law and the Top 50 Women Lawyers in Texas from 2014 to present. O'Neil recently completed a post-doctoral certificate in Women's Leadership from Harvard Law School, which complements her goal of mentoring young women law students and lawyers to be leaders in the profession. She co-founded a women lawyers group online which now boasts 1500-plus members from across the state to provide a place of positive support for women lawyers in the profession.

Baylor University School of Law recently tasked O'Neil with developing a trial skills course for family law litigation. She wrote the curriculum and obtained approval for the family law bootcamp course, which was presented to give third-year students with an interest in family law litigation a look at the real-world practice. She now serves as an adjunct professor at Baylor Law School, where she assists with developing practical models for family law trials and mentors students in the leadership and family law tracks.



She learned to be an entrepreneur from her father. In addition to her law practice, O'Neil owns an online education platform for lawyers called Texas Law CLE Network which provides continuing legal education for lawyers on a subscription basis. She also runs a successful real estate business and a media company.

Even beyond the legal profession, O'Neil is an internationally known professional motivational speaker, business success coach, and author. Her book *Wisdom from Momma* is available on Amazon.com.

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WISCONSIN MILWAUKEE

LINDA VOGT MEAGHER

Ms. Meagher has the unique perspective of substantial experience representing both plaintiffs and defendants in a wide array of personal injury and malpractice litigation. She handles cases involving automobile accidents, general liability, premise liability, wrongful death, and products liability. Her health law experience includes professional malpractice (medical, dental, nursing, chiropractic, podiatrist, pharmacy), nursing home neglect, and HIPAA. She has represented attorneys, engineers and architects in malpractice lawsuits, and handled numerous commercial and insurance coverage disputes. She has tried cases in courts all around Wisconsin.

Ms. Meagher's accolades include a Super Lawyers designation from 2011-2022, an AV® Preeminent rating by Martindale-Hubbell, and the 2011 Wisconsin Law Journal's Women in the Law award. Linda has been designated a Top 25 Women Wisconsin Super Lawyer in 2011, and from 2013-2018. She is a fellow of the prestigious Litigation Counsel of America, which selects lawyers based on effectiveness and accomplishment in trial and appellate litigation and superior ethical reputation.



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NEW JERSEY HACKENSACK

NANCY DEL PIZZO

Nancy Del Pizzo serves as Co-Chair of Rivkin Radler's Intellectual Property Practice Group, and primarily practices in New Jersey and New York. She has nearly twenty years' experience resolving disputes in various areas of law, including trademark, trade dress, copyright and patent infringement, restrictive covenants and domain name disputes, misappropriation of trade secrets and unfair competition, false advertising, defamation and trade libel, and website accessibility. Nancy's experience also includes counseling on discrete business issues including litigation avoidance. Where litigation is the best option, she vigorously represents clients through trial. She also counsels on website terms and conditions and privacy policies. Her practice includes drafting and negotiating complex agreements as well as prosecuting trademark applications and litigating before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board.

Nancy is Co-Chair of the Internet/Privacy Subcommittee of the American Bar Association's Intellectual Property Litigation Section. She is a Master in the John C. Lifland Inn of Court, a federal practice and IP-focused section of the American Inns of Court. Nancy frequently writes and speaks on various topics and serves on *New Jersey Lawyer Magazine's* Editorial Board.

A former journalist, Nancy has a unique insight into the legal issues confronting the media industry and the industries she covered. She published hundreds of articles in consumer and business-to-business magazines and newspapers, focusing on health, medicine and fitness, with a particular emphasis on health, fitness, eye care and eyewear, and she remains a member of the American Society of Journalists and Authors.



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FLORIDA GULFPORT

MARY ANN STILES

Mary Ann Stiles, was the first of her family to graduate college and law school. Mary Ann Stiles is Vice President & General Counsel for CompCorrect, LLC and Construction Casualty Insurance in St. Petersburg, Florida. She maintains her law firm Mary Ann Stiles, P.A. Her expertise includes corporate law and workers compensation defense

Ms. Stiles earned a JD from the Antioch School of Law (now the UDC David A. Clarke School of Law) in 1978, BS from Florida State University in 1975. Ms. Stiles joined organizations that included the American Bar Association, the Hillsborough County Bar Association, the Florida Association for Women Lawyers, Inc., the Claims and Litigation Management Alliance, and HAWL to stay connected with her peers as well as the professional community. Stiles, Taylor & Grace, P.A. was Ms. Stiles' law firm from 1982 to 2012. She joined as a Partner Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A. Ms. Stiles was named Top Attorney of the Year for 2018 by the International Association of Top Professionals (IAOTP). In 2022 inducted into the IAOTP Hall of Fame. Moreover, Ms. Stiles was the first woman inducted into Florida's Workers Compensation Institute, Inc. Hall of Fame; and, one of the first two women inducted in 2009 as a Fellow into the American Bar Association College of Workers Compensation. She was honored as a Top Florida Attorney in the Wall Street Journal, Best Lawyers, Florida Trend Magazine, and was honored numerous times as one of the Best Lawyers in America. In 2016 she received the Legal Elite Award from Corporate America News. In 2015 named Lawyer of the Year for Tampa Workers' Compensation Law-Employers by Best Lawyers and, in 2011 received the Circle of Gold for Outstanding Alumna from Florida State University.



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2023 Women Leaders in Law

**CONNER
WINTERS**



Founded in 1933, Conner & Winters is a premier, full-service business and litigation law firm serving regional and national clients. For 90 years, our firm has provided legal services that are **a step above the rest** in expertise, responsiveness, and integrity. Throughout our history, the remarkable contributions of our women lawyers and leaders have elevated the service we provide to our clients. **We proudly congratulate the female lawyers selected as the 2023 Women Leaders in Law.**

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TULSA

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MICHIGAN BINGHAM FARMS**RENÉE K. GUCCIARDO**

The Gucciardo Law Firm provides families and couples legal representation commensurate with a large firm but with the accessibility and responsiveness of a small firm.

Renée K. Gucciardo has always been passionate about families and their legal needs, so 21 years ago she founded The Gucciardo Law Firm to guide families through the emotional and legal difficulties of divorce. "We understand how important trust is when a client places the lives of themselves and their families in our hands," Gucciardo says.

Included on this year's list of Super Lawyers, Renée understands that open and honest communication is key to a successful attorney-client relationship. "We ensure that we are compassionate about the overwhelming stress that clients may experience during a divorce," she says.

The Gucciardo Law Firm provides Trial representation in Family Law, throughout Oakland, Macomb and Wayne counties.

**THE GUCCIARDO LAW FIRM, PLLC**

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NEW YORK NEW YORK**DAVIDA S. PERRY**

For over 35 years, Davida S. Perry, Managing Partner at Schwartz Perry & Heller LLP has been the go-to legal counsel for employees experiencing sexual harassment and other forms of workplace discrimination including age, race, pregnancy, sexual orientation, disability, religion, national origin, gender and gender identity. Ms. Perry has achieved landmark decisions that have paved the way for victims of discrimination working in NYC to assert their legal rights. Ms. Perry is AV rated by Martindale Hubbell and has been a SuperLawyers recipient for more than a decade. Her opinions have appeared in national and local publications including Time Magazine, Newsweek, Law 360, Thomson Reuters, CNBC, New York Daily News and New York Post. Ms. Perry is a mediator with the Southern and Eastern District Courts. Ms. Perry also serves as an arbitrator and mediator with the American Arbitration Association.

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NEW YORK NEW YORK**KAREN ARTZ ASH****INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND FASHION LAW**

National Chair of Katten's Trademark, Copyright, Advertising and Privacy Practice Group, she is sought out by multi-national fashion and beauty businesses for her unique industry knowledge. She is Chair of the Board of VOLS, a pro bono services organization serving under-represented New Yorkers. She is an Adjunct Professor at NY Law School, teaching Licensing in the Fashion Industry, is a monthly columnist for WTR on US Trademark issues, and is the Publisher/Editor in Chief of the fashion newsletter, KattWalk, has contributed to seminal books on Fashion Law, and is a long time Federal Mediator for the SDNY and Second Circuit Court of Appeals. She is a recipient of multiple recognitions for lifetime achievement in IP and Fashion Law, and is recognized annually among the top 250 lawyers in the world for IP, and recognized in Super Lawyers, Crains, National Law Journal, by Legal Leaders, Managing Intellectual Property and MH's Judicial Edition, among other honors."

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COLORADO DENVER

MICHELLE L. HARDEN

Michelle Harden is COO and Managing Partner at Messner Reeves LLP.

A former nurse, Michelle has extensive experience defending catastrophic injury cases and multi-district, multi-plaintiff personal injury cases. She has significantly focused her practice on representation of physicians, other health care professionals, and healthcare entities. In addition to a very active litigation and trial practice, she frequently represents health care providers in matters involving the Colorado Medical Board, the Board of Nursing, and other credentialing entities and represents these providers in administrative law hearings. Beyond litigation, she is a trusted advisor to many clients on a wide variety of topics and acts as general counsel to several entities. She has received numerous awards and recognitions, including 5280 Magazine Top Lawyers, Super Lawyers, and US News & World Report Best Lawyers and awarded the Colorado Trial Lawyers Association Professionalism Award in 2020 and named a Notable Woman in Law by BizWest Colorado in 2021. Michelle has maintained the AV Preeminent Rating by Martindale Hubbell since 2014. She has served on various boards and is the current President of the Zarlengo Foundation Board and a Denver Broncos' Javonte Williams Foundation Board member.



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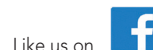
Michelle Bohreer is founder and managing member of Bohreer Law Firm PLLC, an employment defense and commercial litigation boutique. Michelle brings over 30 years' experience and a dynamic relationship approach to her legal practice. Michelle views the job of a lawyer from the perspective of counselor and strategic partner first, and then, after all proactive efforts have been taken to avoid litigation, as an advocate zealously representing the interests of the client. Michelle actively engages in preparing and training on employee policies including discrimination and harassment, preparing and enforcing non-competes, providing investigation assistance, and defending charges of discrimination and unemployment claims. Prior to attending law school, Michelle received her CPA license and utilizes those skills in analyzing business disputes. Michelle believes that clients should be apprised of changes in the law before the client finds out the hard way. Through e-blasts and Facebook updates, Bohreer Law Firm highlights potential "trouble spots". Business and employment negotiations and litigation require a lawyer that understands business. Michelle does. Bohreer Law Firm stands at the intersection of business and law.



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VIRGINIA WOODBRIDGE

MARY E PIVEC

Ms. Pivec has over 35 years of experience in the cross-over fields of immigration and employment law. She has worked with litigation attorneys as a consultant and testifying expert in a broad range of civil and criminal cases raising claims of legal malpractice, breach of warranty, I-9 compliance, breach of fiduciary duty, immigration-related employment discrimination, alien harboring, LCA/H-1B fraud, and document fraud. Ms. Pivec is rated AV Preeminent by Martindale Hubbell, and holds a Tier One Chambers rating. She is a fellow of the American College of Labor and Employment Law, a senior member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, and has been listed in Best Lawyers (Immigration Law) for over 30 years.

Ms. Pivec's experience as a litigator representing employers before arbitrators, administrative law judges, and federal and state court judges, coupled with her brief writing skills, have proven valuable assets to the litigation teams she consults with. Her knowledge of the legislative history and development of immigration and employment law and regulations enables her to quickly grasp the strengths and weaknesses in a dispute and to craft concise, persuasive expert reports. She also brings strong verbal communication skills derived from years of teaching, lecturing, and advocating for clients before agencies, judges, and juries.



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GEORGIA ATLANTA

ALLEGRA LAWRENCE-HARDY

Allegra Lawrence-Hardy is the co-founding partner of Lawrence & Bundy LLC, a complex commercial litigation firm that provides strategic legal counsel of uncompromising quality to clients across the country. Allegra uses creativity and results-oriented analysis to develop legal solutions that work for her clients.

Allegra advises clients daily on a wide range of crisis management, business litigation, labor and employment, and political law issues. She has successfully represented Fortune 100 companies in numerous trials, arbitrations, and other forms of alternative dispute resolution. Allegra is known for her skill in trying high-profile cases, negotiating complex settlements, conducting culturally sensitive investigations, and finding creative solutions. She also helps develop processes and tools for improving the efficiency and delivery of legal services.



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Congratulations to our 2023 Women Leaders in The Law



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Kathleen Harney Smith



Lynne Strobel



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WOMEN LEADERS IN LAW

NEBRASKA OMAHA

JEANA GOOSMANN

Jeana Goosmann is the CEO and Managing Partner of Goosmann Law Firm, the largest woman-owned law firm in the Midwest for trailblazers leading the way. Jeana personally acts as general counsel to company presidents, CEOs, corporate executives, and high-net-worth individuals. Jeana has represented clients on Forbe's billionaire's list, Senators in trial, and companies involved in anti-trust class action, toxic tort, business fraud, piercing the corporate veil, adversary proceedings, mass product recall, breach of contract, explosion litigation and business torts. Jeana also helps out-of-state lawyers with business transactions and litigation in Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota. Since 2009, Jeana has grown her business across four locations and over 60 team members in Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota. In 2021, Jeana was selected as a 2021 Enterprising Woman of the Year. Jeana's achievements include being selected as a member of the Nation's Top One Percent by the National Association of Distinguished Counsel. She is a lifetime member of America's Top 100 attorneys by America's Top 100. Jeana has been rated by Super Lawyers for nine consecutive years and selected as one of America's Top 100 Best-the Company Litigators.



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WOMEN LEADERS IN LAW

TEXAS DALLAS - HOUSTON

PATRICIA KAY DUBE

GENERAL CIVIL LITIGATION AND INSURANCE MATTERS

Patricia Kay Dube has 44 years of experience in handling general civil complex litigation in federal and states courts and arbitration proceedings in areas that include commercial litigation, products liability, construction defect, professional malpractice, employment disputes, maritime and transportation, insurance disputes and subrogation litigation. Her practice includes handling of excess and reinsurance matters, negotiation of insurance contracts and manuscript provisions, negotiating complex cost sharing agreements, and related insurance matters on a domestic and international basis. She has experience in the London market and has represented foreign underwriters in evaluation and supervision of product liability claims of recognized international corporations throughout the world. In addition, Ms. Dube is a certified Mediator with certifications from the Harvard Law School Program on Negotiations and the A.A. White School of Alternative Dispute Resolution – University of Houston Law Center. She is also a member of the Texas Bar College.

Ms. Dube has consistently been rated AV Preeminent – Peer Review by Martindale-Hubbell for ethical standards legal ability since 1986. She has been a member of the Bar Register of Preeminent Women Lawyers for over 20 years. Ms. Dube received a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Texas at Austin in 1972, a Master of Arts Degree from Sam Houston University in 1973, and earned her J. D. from South Texas College of Law in 1979, where she was assistant editor of Law Review.

Ms. Dube currently practices throughout the state of Texas with the firm of Burt Barr & Associates, LLP out of the firm's offices in Dallas and Houston, Texas.



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**BURT BARR
& ASSOCIATES, LLP.**

ILLINOIS

CHICAGO

JULIE A. KATZ

Julie has over 30 years of experience in the intellectual property arena, working closely with clients on both litigation and prosecution across numerous technologies, industries and consumer markets. Her practice is focused on aligning her clients' intellectual property portfolio with their overall business strategy by identifying, protecting and maximizing their IP rights. Julie also has earned knowledge and experience protecting trademarks and copyrights through the US Customs and Border protection system to stop counterfeits and parallel imports from entering the US.



Julie's cannabis practice represents businesses and individuals at every level of the cannabis supply chain. She assists her cannabis-related clients in understanding and assessing the federal and state regulatory framework for cannabis, and guides businesses through applications for brand protection and licensing.

Julie is a caring and trusted advisor for her clients. With a deep understanding of IP law and enforcement strategies, and a history of successful litigation outcomes on high-profile infringement cases, Julie has earned the tactical and nuanced insight that allows her to rigorously protect her clients' business interests.

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