

CRAIN'S

NEW YORK BUSINESS

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Despite the gains for women in the legal field in both representation and pay, they still lag their male counterparts by a wide margin. The pandemic has made the situation worse.

The effects on women lawyers, especially those with children, during the pandemic were documented in a number of surveys in the past couple of years. Although all lawyers worked from home, women reported taking on a much larger share of child care and housework during that time, making it even harder than usual to rack up billable hours and shine in the boardroom.

It is against this challenging backdrop that the women chosen for Crain's 2022 Notable Women in Law list are even more remarkable.

This group of 119 women are exemplary in every way. These impressive

attorneys were chosen not only for their skills and accomplishments in the courtroom, but for their leadership outside of it. In addition to their long hours representing everyone from executives at Fortune 500 companies to immigrants seeking asylum, our honorees this year shored up morale among their colleagues during the pandemic and found ways to keep business going in the face of turmoil.

To find these honorees, Crain's consulted with trusted sources in the legal industry and in the general New York business world. The many nominations submitted by organizations and individuals in the metropolitan area were carefully vetted. Each notable lawyer was selected for her outstanding professional achievements and her pro bono work or involvement with industry and community organizations.

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NOTABLE

WOMEN IN LAW

BARBARA BECKER

Chair and Managing Partner
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher

Barbara Becker in May became the seventh chair and managing partner in Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher's 131-year history and the first woman to hold the position. The move came as no surprise to those who know Becker's work as one of the top mergers-and-acquisitions lawyers in New York. Becker, previously co-chair of the firm's M&A practice for more than a decade, has advised recognizable brands such as Accenture, Berkshire Hathaway Energy and PepsiCo. In her new role, Becker has made diversity one of her priorities, already assembling a diverse leadership team that has had a significant impact on the culture of the firm. More than 61% of the lawyers in the 2022 new partner class are from a diverse background.

