



WOMEN LEADERS IN TECH LAW: CASSANDRA GAEDT-SHECKTER

GIBSON, DUNN & CRUTCHER

Q&A Cassandra Gaedt-Sheckter, a Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher partner in Palo Alto, California, is being recognized as one of 20 Women Leaders in Tech Law as part of The Recorder's California Legal Awards.

Gaedt-Sheckter, who is co-chair of the artificial intelligence and automated systems practice group, co-lead an outside counsel team that assisted Zoom Video Communications Inc. with implementing its global privacy and security program following a settlement with the Federal Trade Commission.

The regulatory attorney recently shared with The Recorder her accomplishments over the last year and advice for women starting out in tech.

What's your proudest professional achievement of the past year and why?

Making partner at Gibson Dunn. This is a reflection of various accomplishments, including in collaboration with my clients. One such accomplishment was advising Zoom on implementing its global privacy and security program following a consent order with the FTC. Another is assisting clients with thorny privacy technology issues in spaces where such technology concerns haven't

traditionally been a focus, such as fashion/retail, and guiding them through privacy compliance, litigation and product concerns (these are largely confidential matters).

What's one piece of advice you'd give to a woman starting out in tech law?

Dig in to the technology and be a boss. Have confidence to be the expert in both the technology and the law. You don't have to see yourself in those ahead of you to believe you can—or to actually—make it there. You can be the change.

What is a group or tool that has helped you grow in your career or contributes to the development of pipelines for women leaders in tech law?

Alumni groups and relationships. Whether it was building relationships through my law school alumni program, or keeping relationships with my former colleagues (law firm alums), those alumni group relationships have helped deepen my knowledge in the issues affecting my clients, built my reputation, furthered partnerships with clients, and provided a network of opportunities for other women colleagues and friends. With respect to tools, using targeted news sources, like Legaltech News, and alerts from the California



Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher's Cassandra L. Gaedt-Sheckter. Courtesy photo

legislature (in my case) itself, helps to stay apprised of legal tech trends, laws and issues that have helped in building the expertise required to lead, particularly for product counseling purposes, where launches are fast-paced and the laws and risk calculus are adjusting frequently.

Do you have a memorable women-helping-women moment in your career during the pandemic?

Many of us faced the "kids bombing your Zoom call" situation. I had the pleasure to work with amazing women tech legal leaders both at the firm and at the largest technology companies in the world, who normalized that behavior—which was largely out of our control—by honoring the drop-ins themselves, and making nothing of it.