

## TOP WOMEN IN THE LAW 2016 AWARDS



# Mylan Denerstein



Partner,  
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher

In less than two years, Mylan Denerstein has made her mark at Gibson Dunn. A litigation partner, she serves on the firm's hiring, diversity and community affairs committee and is a member of the crisis management, white-collar defense, securities litigation and appellate practice groups. She came to Gibson Dunn after three years as chief counsel to Gov. Andrew Cuomo, where she helped to negotiate legislation for marriage equality, gun control and women's equality, and was the highest ranking African American in the administration. Her experience in the public sector, including several years as executive deputy attorney general, now helps her clients navigate confidential and complex legal issues involving government.

#### If I weren't a lawyer, I'd be ...

A psychiatrist. I would love the opportunity to help people solve problems and to learn new things.

#### The mentor/lawyer I most admire is ...

Jo Ann Harris, one of my first bosses. She was a pioneer female Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Southern District Attorney's Office. She later became the first female in charge of the Justice Department's criminal division.

She was an extraordinary trial lawyer, a fabulous teacher, mentor and friend. I miss her every day and owe much of my success to her.

#### What's the best advice anyone has ever given you?

Don't limit yourself. Take calculated risks. And if you fail, get up and start over.

#### #1 survival tip in a work crisis:

Always remember that a crisis presents amazing challenges and opportunities. Tackle one challenge at a time and just make it through the day. Don't worry about tomorrow because it is going to happen no matter what.

#### Have you ever been treated differently on the job because of your gender?

Yes, earlier in my career.

#### What must the legal profession do to improve opportunities for women lawyers?

We need to make sure we are providing the same opportunities for growth and development to women as men. I am a huge fan of my firm's women mentoring groups because they provide an opportunity to share information and learn from each other's experiences.