

Daily Journal

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Top Women Lawyers

This supplement is devoted to recognizing excellent lawyering and leadership skills among women attorneys in California. To pick a list of 75 litigators and 25 corporate transactions and regulatory specialists, editors at the Daily Journal reviewed hundreds of nominations from law firms, public agencies, nonprofits and universities.

Women are helping major litigation and deals and on the cutting edge of regulatory work. They are leaders and rainmakers in their law firms in numbers never seen before.

—The Editors

Mary G. Murphy

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, San Francisco

PRACTICE: transactional

SPECIALTY: real estate and land use

There seems to be a landmark at the center of each of Murphy's projects these days. Just two years ago came Treasure Island, San Francisco's former naval base turned residential neighborhood. As lead counsel to a developer, Murphy helped get the island's redevelopment approved, she said.

She also worked on plans to redevelop 140 New Montgomery, a historic tower built in 1925 which was the long-time home to Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company.

"We do a lot of historic rehab projects," she said.

Most recently, she has been helping hash out a complicated deal for the Golden State Warriors proposed new arena in San Francisco. "The Warriors came to us because we've done a lot of deals like this. We're very familiar with all these different pieces of the puzzle."

Not only has it been a rewarding challenge because of the various agencies involved, including the city and port, Murphy says, it has been great for another reason: "I happen to be a huge basketball fan, so I'm in heaven. It couldn't be more fun."

She is right at home with what she calls "multi-layered projects," she said. "That's sort of our sweet spot." Her firm stands out, she said, because it handles entitlement and California Environmental Quality Act cases, but also



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transactional public-private deals. "The challenges are always new. There's a lot of moving pieces."

Such deals can take a long time to unfold, she said. "So you have to think not only about today, but five years out, 10 years out, 20 years out."

Currently, Murphy represents George Lucas's film production company, Lucasfilm Inc., in two projects. One is a bid to develop Grady Ranch in Marin County with low-income housing. The other relates to Lucas's bid to build a museum in the Presidio of San Francisco.

— Chase Scheinbaum