

Daily Journal

MAY 8, 2013

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 helming 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

Meryl Young

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, Irvine

PRACTICE TYPE: litigation

SPECIALTY: securities

Young admits that she kind of “fell in” to becoming an attorney.

While earning a bachelor’s degree in Economics at Barnard College, Young was given the opportunity to enroll in a program at Columbia Law School where she could earn both her undergraduate degree and her law school degree in six years. On a whim, she applied, got in, and discovered she actually enjoyed it.

“I turned out to really liked law school, but I can’t say I planned it,” she said. “I gravitated toward legal topics that involved business and financial issues, and that’s also what drew me to securities litigation at Gibson.”

Now Young, 25-year partner at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, represents companies, directors and officers, and accounting firms in class actions, shareholder derivative suits, mergers and acquisitions litigation, investigations and malpractice actions.

Young handles securities class action litigation including cases stemming from the 2008 subprime mortgage crisis. She was lead counsel for the independent directors of subprime mortgage company New Century Financial in securities class actions, bankruptcy trustee litigation and related investigations. That case is an example of the added layers of intrigue that often accompany securities class actions today, she said.

“It’s very common for us now to be working on some-



thing that involves federal court and an SEC investigation and sometimes a Department of Justice investigation,” she said. “That overlap makes it very interesting and very challenging.”

Young’s other matters include serving as lead counsel for Citigroup Global Markets Inc. in a suit filed against the company by Tri-City Healthcare District,

a California-based public health care district, relating to Citigroup’s 2007 issuance of revenue bonds in the form of auction rate securities. The case is pending in appellate court. *Tri-City Healthcare District v. The Superior Court of Orange County*, G047851 (Cal. App. 4th Dist., filed December 2012).

Among community and bar activities, Young serves on the Board of Directors of the Masters Division of the Orange County Bar Association, a group of legal professionals who have been practicing for more than 25 years.

“Sometimes it is hard for me to believe how long I’ve been practicing and how long I’ve been partner here,” she said. “I’m very fortunate to have been a part of Gibson for this long.”

— Alexandra Schwappach