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45 UNDER 45

How did we pick these outstanding young lawyers? Let us explain.

Edited By Julie Triedman

WHETHER IT'S "DEALMAKERS OF THE YEAR," "Litigation Department of the Year," "Big Suits," or "Big Deals," the pages of *The American Lawyer* typically brim with pictures of men. But time and again, we've come across remarkable women lawyers, many of whom fell outside of our deals-and-suits-heavy coverage. To give them their due, we decided to identify the best of the best among young women lawyers in The Am Law 200, and bring them together in a single issue.

We called various industry sources and also invited The Am Law 200 to submit a maximum of five nominations per firm. All told, we had more than ten nominees for each spot on our "45 Under 45" list, so our team of reporters and editors could afford to be picky. In the end, we passed over the many ink-worthy "rising stars" in favor of a few dozen women who—despite their youth—have already arrived. Some are well-known, others less so. But all have achievements we could quantify: They are leading billion-dollar deals or financings, first-chairing high-stakes litigation, arguing appeals, or managing important firm clients. We also looked for those with an upward trajectory at their firms, whether taking on progressively larger roles, heading important firm initiatives, or bringing in significant new business. We also recognized a few women who have built successful original practices, like privacy law or clean tech, or have taken their practices to new places, whether that be public international law or the Middle East. One thing we didn't take into account: A lot of these lawyers are juggling careers with raising young children.

After the initial vetting, we got on the phones. Every finalist was screened by an *American Lawyer* reporter, who reviewed her record and called clients and opposing counsel. Then we tried to distill it all into approximately 125 words per profile. It was a big job, but these women are worth the recognition. Read on.

—JULIE TRIEDMAN

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IF YOU'RE A LATIN AMERICAN head of state in trouble, you may want to call Gehring Flores. Her clients include Argentina, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, and Venezuela. Her cases include the first dispute under the 2009 Central American free trade agreement, the longest-running arbitration at the World Bank (arising out of a 1973 newspaper seizure by then-Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet), and possibly the most colorful claim on the long docket sheet of Venezuela's Hugo Chávez, arising out of an allegedly forged billion-dollar bond. Dominican Ministry of Public Works GC Bolívar Bello Belliard raves about her work on a half-billion-dollar commercial arbitration stemming from an unbuilt highway; Gehring Flores excelled on cross-examination, he says. Lawyers much older were left muttering: "That's the way I'd like to litigate when I grow up."

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