

Daily Journal

SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

TOP 100 2020

CORPORATE AND SECURITIES

Katharine Martin

Martin has represented social networking company Twitter Inc. since before its initial public offering. When it came time for Twitter to ink a complex investment deal that would ultimately fund a \$2 billion share repurchase program, Martin was called in to lead.

The negotiations required significant law firm resources, according to Martin, while working through issues of board governance at Twitter.

Twitter announced in March 2020 that it would receive a \$1 billion investment from tech investor Silver Lake and that it had entered into a cooperation agreement with Elliott Management Corp., which owns about 4 percent of Twitter's stock. Twitter expects to use Silver Lake's investment and cash on hand to repurchase up to \$2 billion of its own shares over time. Silver Lake and Elliott executives were appointed to Twitter's board of directors as part of the deal.

As the daughter of an engineer, Martin said she's always had an interest in technology. Now she represents tech

companies at all phases of maturity in fields including semiconductors, software, and the gig economy.

"It's been fascinating to watch these companies grow and innovate," she said.

Martin has been with Wilson Sonsini for more than two decades. She practices corporate and securities law, representing public companies in matters including corporate governance, SEC compliance, 1934 Act issues, public offerings, private placements, and mergers and acquisitions. She also represents underwriters in public offerings, and issuers and investors in private equity financings.

Martin's role as Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati's board chair has compelled her to look at leadership in different ways for the betterment of clients, the firm's lawyers, and the community.

"It's definitely taken me out of my comfort zone, but this environment and these challenges are some of the most rewarding of my career," she said. "I want us to function at a higher level so we can make a bigger difference as a firm."

— Jennifer McEntee



WILSON SONSINI GOODRICH & ROSATI PC

PALO ALTO

SPECIALTY: CAPITAL MARKETS,
CORPORATE GOVERNANCE,
M&A, PUBLIC COMPANY
REPRESENTATION, EMERGING
COMPANIES