Welcome

As we were going to press with this issue of the WIN newsletter, we received some exciting news: Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati was named as one of the “2008 Best Law Firms for Women” by Working Mother Media and Flex-Time Lawyers. As explained in their press release, the list includes 50 “pioneering firms” that “have instituted female and family-friendly benefits” and are “redefining the standards of success and creating workplaces that encourage the retention and advancement of women.” We are truly honored to be included in this roster.

In this issue, we also invite you to meet some extraordinary women: former eBay president and CEO Meg Whitman, who was the featured speaker at our latest Women’s Leadership Series Forum; partner Lisa Prager, who shares some of her “Strategies for Success”; and associate Effie Toshav, who reflects on her experience both at the firm and in house at technology and life sciences companies. They each have an interesting story to tell and are generous in passing along observations and tips they have acquired in the course of their exceptional careers. In addition, you’ll learn about the firm’s most recent efforts to attract, retain, and advance women attorneys, as well as some of our attorneys’ achievements and honors.

As always, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati remains committed to providing all our attorneys with the best possible professional environment, and I hope that you’ll see that goal reflected in these pages.

Sincerely,

John Roos
Chief Executive Officer

Women’s Leadership Series Forum:

Meg Whitman Shares the Business Lessons Learned in a Decade at eBay

Meg Whitman, former president and chief executive officer of eBay, recently addressed nearly 250 women professionals at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati’s annual Women’s Leadership Series luncheon. Described by Condé Nast Portfolio magazine as “a decisive leader who uses a soft touch,” Meg spoke frankly about the evolution of eBay, the business lessons she learned in her 10 years at its helm, and her belief that “great work trumps everything else.”

Meg was introduced by Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati chairman Larry Sonsini, who traced her successful career path through a variety of high-level brand management and executive positions at Procter & Gamble, Bain & Company, The Walt Disney Company, Stride Rite Corporation, Florists Transworld Delivery, and Hasbro before joining eBay as its chief executive in 1998. He highlighted the fact that during Meg’s tenure, eBay evolved from a 30-employee, U.S. auction website with $4.7 million in revenue into a 15,000-employee global corporation with nearly $8 billion in revenue that has revolutionized the way people buy, sell, and trade worldwide.

When Meg took the mike, she explained that AuctionWeb, as the company originally was called in 1995, was conceived as a humble U.S. collectibles website and wasn’t designed to be a moneymaker. However, it grew exponentially from the very beginning, and Meg was recruited to serve as CEO in 1998. She immediately recognized the potential of her new company: “Great brands are made of two things—features and functionality—and eBay had both, in addition to the rare ability to foster an emotional connection between users.”

Meg then took time to walk through the “great all-time moves” in eBay’s evolution, including its 2002 acquisition of PayPal, its 2004-5 expansion into the classifieds market, and its 2006 acquisition of Skype, a free provider of voice and video over the Web. All were big risks with tremendous payoffs: now-ubiquitous PayPal raked in $1.9 billion in revenue in 2007 and commands a 6 percent share of global e-commerce; eBay is currently the largest classifieds player in the world; and Skype is the fastest-growing Web property ever, with 250 million users worldwide.

According to Meg, all three moves were geared toward expanding the company’s vision, markets, and opportunities. “The key is that companies need more than one revenue stream to succeed,” she said. “If eBay remained solely an auction website, the company would be half the size it is today. Our financial results speak to the power of innovation.”

Meg also shared a variety of other valuable business lessons she’s learned over the years, among them: revenue must be greater than costs (“I know it seems obvious, but it wasn’t obvious to a lot of folks in the Valley 10 years ago”); the price of inaction is far greater than the cost of making a mistake (“if you do make a mistake, acknowledge it and fix it quickly”); reorganize early and often (“people hate it, but it’s the right thing to do”); and inclusion, or rather, the illusion of inclusion, is essential (“everyone just wants to feel they have a say at the table”).
In discussing the challenges of balancing the demands of work and family, Meg noted that early on in her career, she realized that she couldn’t be perfect at everything, so she decided to focus on three main priorities: her boys, her husband, and eBay. “I haven’t yet found anyone who can do it all,” she confided. “In the end, you can only do the best job that you can do.” Laughing, Meg added that 30-minute stints on the treadmill also work wonders to help manage work-related stress and make her “a much better person.”

The importance of doing one’s best served as the overarching theme of Meg’s talk. In closing, she relayed an early experience at Procter & Gamble, where one of her first tasks was to determine whether the hole in a shampoo bottle cap should be one-eighth of an inch wide or one-fourth of an inch wide—not the type of assignment she envisioned as a recent proud graduate of Harvard Business School. After recovering from her initial surprise, she threw herself into the project, determined to provide the most insightful, most thorough analysis possible. “So, my advice to you is this: no matter what you’re asked to do, do the very best job you can,” she said. “If you constantly do this, you will be recognized. Great work trumps everything else.”

After stepping down as president and CEO earlier this year, Meg continues to serve on eBay’s board of directors, as well as the boards of the eBay Foundation, Procter & Gamble, and DreamWorks Animation. She and her husband, Dr. Griffith R. Harsh IV, a brain surgeon, reside in the San Francisco Bay Area and have two sons, ages 20 and 23.

Held in Menlo Park, California, on May 15, 2008, the luncheon was the fifth in Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati’s Women’s Leadership Series. These well-attended events, which are video cast to all of the firm’s national offices, provide a forum for the firm’s female attorneys, clients, and alumni to hear from prominent business leaders, as well as to network and discuss issues of concern to women in the field of law. Past speakers have included Donna Dubinsky, co-founder and CEO of Numenta and former CEO of Palm; Carly Fiorina, former chairman and CEO of Hewlett-Packard; Carol Bartz, former CEO of Autodesk; and Cathy Kinney, president of the New York Stock Exchange.

WIN Model
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati’s Women’s Initiative Network (WIN) encompasses three goals: 1) to enhance the firm’s recruiting, retention, and advancement efforts; 2) to support the career development of our female attorneys; and 3) to foster a supportive work environment that gives attorneys the opportunity to find satisfaction in their professional and personal lives. The WIN Committee is developing specific goals in each of these areas for 2008 and beyond.

Reach Recruiting and Building Community
The firm reaches out to women with wide-ranging recruiting efforts and programs that build community among attorneys both within and outside the firm.

Advance Career Planning and Flexibility & Choice
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati understands that, in order to advance their careers, attorneys need access to career-planning tools as well as flexibility and choice.

Succeed Business Development and Leadership
The firm helps women succeed by providing outstanding business development and leadership opportunities.
Lisa Prager: Strategies for Success

The path that Lisa took to discovering her true inner lawyer was indeed a circuitous one, filled with unexpected revelations about her strengths and interests and a healthy dose of pushing her own comfort zone. A native New Yorker and graduate of Yale University, Lisa went to work for the Department of Justice after earning her J.D. at the Western New England College School of Law. “I knew that I didn’t want to go right into private practice, and I thought that I wanted to get into very cerebral, ivory-tower law,” Lisa says. “So I came to the DOJ in D.C. and started writing appellate briefs and petitions certiorari for the Supreme Court and the like.” But something clicked after reading mountains of trial transcripts: The “ivory-tower” attorney realized that she was attracted to the rough-and-tumble, bare-knuckled world of trial lawyers.

Lisa segued to the U.S. Attorney’s Office and quickly gained a reputation as a tenacious trial lawyer who liked to tackle difficult matters, earning the respect of federal agents seeking prosecution for their cases. “I have to say that I found the U.S. Attorney’s Office quite gender blind,” she recalls. “The agents didn’t care if you were male or female—they just wanted someone who would be a fierce ally and see their cases through to the end.” Those cases ran the gamut from narcotics-related murder conspiracies to terrorism to economic espionage. After successfully pursuing an indictment in a high-profile, controversial case involving American-made machine tools that ended up in a foreign aircraft factory, she found herself gravitating to export controls work, a field that became increasingly important after 9/11. “I just wanted to stop bad stuff from going to bad people,” she says with characteristic understatement.

After 15 years at the U.S. Attorney’s office, Lisa was ready for a new challenge. At the urging of some friends in the Commerce Department, she successfully applied for a Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Enforcement position at the department’s Bureau of Industry and Security. The post involved running a multifaceted organization, overseeing federal agents, intelligence operatives, attorneys, and administrative staff.

She found the work rewarding and took special pride in such projects as implementing new and helpful guidelines for companies dealing with foreign exports. “I thought that industry should have a clearer understanding of the government’s priorities and realize that Enforcement is going come down a lot harder on you if you’re shipping night-vision goggles to Afghanistan than pregnancy-test kits to Cuba.”

Dealing with companies and “extremely accomplished” defense attorneys revealed another unsuspected truth about herself: She was fascinated by the world of big business and was developing a keener insight into a company’s point of view concerning export controls.

Given this new perspective, it made sense that after three and a half years at the Commerce Department, Lisa was ready to move to private practice. It took a little time to find the law firm with the right platform and culture, but after year-long stints at two other firms, Lisa joined fellow Miller & Chevalier alumna Josephine Aiello LeBeau in Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati’s export controls and economic sanctions practice. “From day one, I knew I had found my place,” she says. “The firm made it clear that they truly believed in the export controls practice, in the D.C. office, and in Josephine and me.” Since settling in at the firm, she has focused on counseling a wide range of domestic and foreign companies with respect to U.S. export controls, economic sanctions law, and the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act—work that she finds “enormously interesting, as I love getting to learn all about my clients’ businesses.”

Like most working parents, Lisa tries to balance work and family, spending time with her two daughters: Alexandra, who will be a sophomore in college this fall, and Madeline, who will be a senior in high school. As she talks about their accomplishments, her pride in them is evident. “They both are extremely athletic,” she says. “Alexandra was the only girl on the boys’ ice-hockey team at her school, and Madeline is a nationally ranked fencer.” (And no dainty foil for Madeline, either—the saber is her weapon of choice.) In addition, Alexandra, who interned at the firm last year, is working for the Obama campaign this summer in the fellows program, which is right in keeping with the family’s tradition of public service—not only did Lisa spend 22 years working for the government, but her grandmother was a labor union organizer and her sister is an elected judge in New York and active in Democratic politics. “My family just always instilled in us a sense that it was very important to give back to society,” Lisa says.

Now that her daughters are moving out of the nest, Lisa has decided to assume a new kind of parenting role: raising a 150-lb. Newfoundland puppy named Hera, after the chief goddess in the Roman pantheon. “Hera the Terror, we call her,” she says. “And we’re only half joking.” She also recently has taken up hot yoga which, tellingly, she likes because “there’s a cerebral complement to the physical demands.” Clearly, this is a woman who relishes a challenge—but one who also seems very glad that she finally figured out the type of lawyer she wanted to be.
**Associate Life**

**Effie Toshav**

Associate Effie Toshav is a woman on the move. For starters, she has lived on three different continents. Effie was born in Israel, grew up in New York, and lived in Austria for a year as a teenager. As an adult, she’s made a few more moves and has enjoyed a multifaceted career, both inside and outside the firm. One thing has remained constant, though: her deep interest in law, technology, and the life sciences.

Effie’s career at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati has followed a boomerang path. She started at the firm’s Palo Alto headquarters in 1999, left the following year, then returned to the Seattle office in 2006. She spent her seven-year hiatus acting in-house at three cutting-edge enterprises: first at FusionOne, an Internet start-up; then at Protein Design Labs (now PDL BioPharma); and finally at the biotechnology company GlycoFi, where she was general counsel.

**What lured you back to the firm?**

We negotiated the sale of GlycoFi to Merck in June 2006 and my husband graduated from business school a few days later, so we were both ready to move on. The idea of coming back to the firm was very appealing. More than anything else, I’d missed the colleagues I had at the firm and the opportunity to bounce ideas off of so many top-notch attorneys.

In fact, this is the only law firm I ever wanted to work at, going back to my days as a Stanford undergrad. There was such an exciting entrepreneurial spirit in Silicon Valley in the mid-90s and WSGR was in the center of it all. I wanted to be part of that. Now I’m back, but at the firm’s Seattle office—which is great for me, since my husband and I both have family here.

**You’ve worked as both outside and in-house counsel. What do you see as the biggest difference?**

Both roles have their pluses and minuses. When you work inside a company, you’re actually making things happen and building a business, which can be very exciting. But then again, some of what you do day to day can be mundane.

When you’re working as outside counsel, you interact with clients at a strategic level. That can be fascinating, but the downside is that after you offer advice, you don’t always get to see what happens. Ultimately, I think having both experiences has enabled me to offer a unique perspective to my clients.

**What’s the best thing about being an associate at the firm? And what’s the biggest challenge?**

The best thing is that if you’re a self-starter, the firm allows you to build a career and your business very early on. And I guess a young associate’s biggest challenge here may be figuring out how to distinguish oneself among so many talented and hardworking colleagues.

**You have a reputation as being especially effective at business development. Do you have any advice for new associates building a book of business?**

Probably the most important thing you can do is to look at where your unique talents lie, or where you have an “in.” For instance, since I spent so many years at life sciences companies, many of my personal contacts have gone on to work at and start new companies. So I’ve leveraged those connections as I’ve built my career.

Of course, everyone’s contacts, experiences, and fields of expertise are different. We all have to look at our particular circumstances and contacts and build on those. The key is to be strategic: Don’t spend time on business development activities unless there is a chance they are going to pan out.

Also, business development doesn’t always have to involve clients and other outside contacts. You can do internal business development by building a relationship with a senior partner. Talk to people you admire and learn all you can about what they’ve done—and how they did it.

**Any other advice?**

When you’re starting your career, it’s important to have a strategy. You don’t want to get caught in your sixth year—after you’ve worked your tail off—deciding what kind of practice you want to pursue. But while an overall strategy helps you keep your career moving in the direction you’d like, it also helps to be adaptable and take risks early on, since, let’s face it, none of us are lucky enough to have everything go according to our plans. Above all, the key is loving what you do. If that’s the case, everything else works out.

**How do you balance work and family time?**

My husband, Ben, and I take a team approach to everything, including raising our 15-month-old daughter, Sophia. It’s great that Ben’s in the same industry as me: He’s a venture capitalist focused on investing in healthcare companies. I’m also lucky to have childcare help from my mother, my mother-in-law, and an au pair.

Yes, it’s true that attorneys can find themselves working all the time, but being able to control our schedules is one of the advantages of the legal field, especially once you have a bit of seniority. These days I may come in early or work late if I have to, but I make sure I have time for my daughter in the morning when she wakes up and then in the late afternoon for dinner and bedtime. If I have accomplished that, I’ve had a good day.
Meet Our Women Partners

Josephine Aiello LeBeau  
Washington, D.C.  
Export Controls & Economic Sanctions

Josephine counsels domestic and foreign companies on issues related to the compliance and enforcement of U.S. export control regulations and economic sanctions. She assists clients in obtaining necessary government approvals related to the export or transfer of their products, software, technology, and services.

Colleen Bal  
Palo Alto  
Litigation

Colleen specializes in intellectual property litigation and complex commercial litigation for technology companies. She serves on the firm’s Associate Career Development Committee.

Suzanne Bell  
Palo Alto  
Technology Transactions

Suzanne’s practice focuses on technology and intellectual property transactions for a wide range of companies, with an emphasis on strategic alliances and outsourcing transactions. She is a leader of the firm’s technology transactions practice and serves on the Policy and Member Compensation Committees.

Carmen Chang  
Palo Alto/Shanghai  
Corporate

Carmen leads the firm’s China practice and serves on the Policy Committee. She specializes in corporate and securities law, representing public and private technology companies and financial institutions in the United States and abroad, particularly in the People’s Republic of China, Taiwan, and other Asian locations.

Susan Creighton  
Washington, D.C.  
Antitrust

Susan serves as co-chair of the firm’s antitrust practice and is a member of the Executive Management and Member Compensation Committees. Her practice focuses on merger and acquisition reviews by antitrust enforcers, government non-merger investigations, and antitrust counseling and litigation.

Karen Dreyfus  
Palo Alto  
Corporate

With extensive experience in corporate law and governance, corporate finance, and mergers and acquisitions, Karen represents companies in a variety of industries at all stages of growth, with a particular emphasis on public companies.

Kristen Garcia Dumont  
San Francisco  
Employment Law

Kristen has extensive litigation experience defending private and public companies in a broad spectrum of employment disputes, including race, gender, age, disability, and sexual harassment lawsuits. She also has extensive mergers and acquisition experience. Kristen serves on the firm’s Diversity Council, as well as the Women’s Initiative Network, Hiring, and Pro Bono Committees.

Renata Hesse  
Washington, D.C.  
Antitrust

Renata’s practice focuses on antitrust litigation and counseling. Having previously served as chief of the Networks and Technology Enforcement Section of the Department of Justice’s Antitrust Division, Renata is considered one of the country’s preeminent technology antitrust attorneys.

Julie Holloway  
Palo Alto  
IP Litigation

An expert in patent litigation, Julie has litigated a number of patent infringement cases in district court and also has tried several cases before the U.S. International Trade Commission. Julie is a member of the firm’s Associate Hiring Committee.
Profiles

**Catherine Kirkman**  
*Palo Alto*  
**Technology Transactions**

Catherine specializes in media, copyright, and Internet law, with an emphasis on counseling, licensing, and commercial transactions. Her background is unique in Silicon Valley, having previously practiced at an entertainment law firm in Los Angeles. She serves as co-chair of the firm’s Nominating Committee and as a member of the Education Committee.

**Tonia Ouellette**  
*Klausner*  
**New York**  
**Litigation**

Tonia focuses on business disputes and intellectual property litigation, primarily defending Internet companies. Her experience has included handling dozens of consumer class actions for the firm.

**Meredith Kotler**  
*New York*  
**Litigation**

Meredith focuses on commercial and securities litigation, government and internal investigations, and appellate work. She is a member of the firm’s Associate Career Development Committee.

**Nina (Nicki) Locker**  
*Palo Alto*  
**Securities Litigation**

Nicki specializes in securities litigation and counseling, and has represented companies and their officers and directors in more than 50 shareholder class actions and derivative suits throughout the United States. She is a member of the firm’s Policy Committee.

**F.T. Alexandra Mahaney**  
*San Diego*  
**IP Litigation**

Alexandra practices in the area of intellectual property litigation, and more particularly, patent litigation. She has been trial counsel on numerous patent cases in the life sciences field and other technological fields, as well as on trademark, trade secret, and unfair competition cases.

**Page Mailliard**  
*Palo Alto*  
**Corporate**

Page’s practice focuses on emerging growth technology companies, including those focused on digital media, mobile phone applications, information technology, infrastructure, software, and clean technology. She serves on the firm’s Nominating Committee, and is on the board of Stanford’s Gender Institute.

**Eileen Marshall**  
*Washington, D.C.*  
**Tax**

Eileen’s tax practice includes all aspects of public and private mergers, acquisitions, and divestitures, as well as other corporate transactions. She also advises clients on tax issues in connection with public and private equity and debt financings and restructurings.

**Katharine Martin**  
*Palo Alto*  
**Corporate**

Katharine represents public companies in all aspects of corporate and securities law. She is a member of the firm’s Executive Management and Finance Committees, a director of the WSGR Foundation, and previously served as the leader of the firm’s Business Law Department and as a member of the Policy Committee.

**Peri Nielsen**  
*Palo Alto*  
**Securities Litigation**

Peri practices in the areas of securities and commercial litigation. She has represented companies and their officers and directors in securities class actions filed across the country, and has handled numerous derivative lawsuits, regulatory proceedings, contested mergers and acquisitions, and securities arbitrations.

**Jennifer Ochs**  
*Palo Alto*  
**IP Litigation**

Jennifer serves a wide variety of technology companies in both IP litigation and IP counseling. Her litigation practice focuses on patent infringement, copyright misappropriation, and trade secret misappropriation cases. She is a member of the firm’s Associate Career Development Committee.

**Donna Petkanics**  
*Palo Alto*  
**Corporate**

Donna’s practice focuses on growth companies, with a particular emphasis on corporate and securities issues. She represents both privately held and public companies across a broad range of industries. Donna serves as a member of the firm’s Policy and Finance Committees and is a director of the WSGR Foundation.

**Lisa Prager**  
*Washington, D.C.*  
**Export Controls & Economic Sanctions**

Lisa’s practice includes government investigations and enforcement actions, both regulatory and criminal in nature, arising from U.S. export controls, economic sanctions law, and the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. She has counseled domestic and foreign companies with respect to State Department, Treasury Department, and Commerce Department export control laws and regulations.

**Maura Rees**  
*Palo Alto*  
**IP Litigation**

Maura’s practice focuses on complex commercial and intellectual property litigation, including issues such as patent infringement, federal and state law unfair competition and antitrust claims, copyright infringement, and the patent policies of industry standard-setting organizations. She is a co-chair of the firm’s Education Committee and serves on the Associate Hiring Committee.
Julia Reigel  
Palo Alto  
Corporate

Julia counsels large and small public company and private company clients primarily in the semiconductor and electronic design automation software markets in all aspects of corporate and securities law. She also advises boards of directors and issuers on fiduciary matters, disclosure questions, compliance, and governance issues. Julia is a member of several committees at the firm, including the Education Committee.

Susan Reinstru  
Palo Alto  
Real Estate & Environmental

Susan’s focus is on real estate transactional law, including acquisitions and dispositions, financing, construction, leasing, and subleasing. She has represented clients in numerous complex leasing transactions, including synthetic leasing and lease restructurings. Susan serves on the firm’s Associate Career Development Committee.

Anie Roche  
Palo Alto  
IP Counseling & Patents

Anie concentrates on patent prosecution, strategic patent counseling, and intellectual property due diligence in a variety of fields, including protein chemistry, pharmaceutical sciences, pharmacology, neuroscience, bioinformatics, and molecular biology. In addition to her J.D., she holds a Ph.D. in pharmacology and neuroscience. Anie is a member of the firm’s Associate Hiring Committee.

Kathleen Rothman  
Palo Alto  
Corporate Finance

Kathleen’s practice focuses on corporate finance and corporate law and governance. She specializes in debt financing transactions, including secured and unsecured loans, bridge loans, and convertible debt. Kathleen is one of three law-school hiring partners on the firm’s Associate Hiring Committee.

Elizabeth Saunders  
San Francisco  
Litigation

Elizabeth is a member of the firm’s litigation department. She specializes in a variety of areas, including corporate governance, mergers and acquisitions, and intellectual property litigation and counseling. She has been co-chair of the firm’s Associate Career Development Committee for the past five years and also serves on the Nominating Committee.

Stefani Shanberg  
Palo Alto  
IP Litigation

Stefani’s practice focuses on intellectual property litigation, with a particular emphasis on investigations before the International Trade Commission. With a background in patent, trade secret, trademark, and copyright law, Stefani has extensive experience spearheading both domestic and international litigation in the software, semiconductor, Internet, product design, and consumer products industries.

Allison Berry Spinner  
Palo Alto  
Corporate

Allison specializes in corporate and securities transactions and corporate governance matters for public and private companies, venture capital and private equity firms, and investment banks. She works with companies in a variety of industries, including software, networking, semiconductor, and retail. She serves on the firm’s Associate Career Development Committee.

Nicole Stafford  
Austin  
IP Litigation

Nicole’s practice focuses on patent and complex technical litigation, ITC practice, appellate work, and pre-litigation strategic counseling. She has a strong technical background and experience in all phases of patent and technological litigation in diverse technologies, from high tech to biotech and materials/chemical applications.

Marina Tsatalis  
New York/Palo Alto  
Employment Law

Marina specializes in employment law, with an emphasis on litigation matters. She has significant experience serving as lead trial counsel and has successfully litigated a broad spectrum of cases in state and federal courts and in arbitrations throughout the country.

Debra Summers  
Palo Alto  
Real Estate & Environmental

Debra is chair of the firm’s real estate and environmental practice. She has been a member of the firm since 1985 and has worked with many of the firm’s clients on their most difficult real estate and environmental matters.

Ann Yvonne Walker  
Palo Alto  
Corporate

Ann primarily represents public companies in corporate and securities law matters, with a particular emphasis on disclosure obligations and SEC compliance issues. She is very active on a number of ABA committees and previously served as chair of the California State Bar Business Law Section. Ann currently serves on the firm’s Education and Opinion Advisory Committees.

Eva Wang  
Shanghai  
Corporate

Eva practices corporate and securities law with an emphasis on technology sector. She has significant public company expertise and focuses on key clients in Shanghai, while also working to expand the firm’s practice in the China region.
Women on the Move

News

- In August 2008, Working Mother Media and Flex-Time Lawyers named Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati as one of the "Best Law Firms for Women." In all, 50 firms were chosen nationwide, and the honor will be featured in the August/September issue of Working Mother magazine.

- In November 2007, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati elected three new partners from its associate ranks: Kristen Garcia Dumont, employment law, Palo Alto; Toniia Ouellette Klausner, litigation, New York; and Anie Roche, intellectual property, Palo Alto. In September 2007, the firm was pleased to welcome Karen Dreyfus as a partner in the corporate and securities practice. Based in Palo Alto and with a particular focus on public companies, Karen previously practiced at Omelyen & Myers, where she was a founding partner of its Menlo Park office. In July 2008, Eva Wang joined the Shanghai office as a corporate and securities partner. She previously was general counsel and vice president of legal affairs at Spreadtrum Communications, a leading NASDAQ-listed Chinese semiconductor company. Eva had been an associate at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati earlier in her career.

- In the Summer 2008 issue of Minority Law Journal, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati was featured in a cover story that not only described the firm’s track record of success when it comes to diversity, but also spotlighted two of the firm’s newly elected women partners, Kristen Garcia Dumont and Anie Roche.

- In April 2008, securities litigation partner Nicki Locker was named among the “100 Lawyers You Need to Know in Securities Litigation” for 2008 by Lawdragon, a well-regarded source for legal information and attorney listings. The list was based on a survey of more than 50,000 attorneys, judges, and corporate counsel nationwide.

- Reinforcing her stature within the antitrust field, Susan Creighton was named in The International Who’s Who of Competition Lawyers & Economists for 2008 early this year.

- The firm, led by corporate partner and China practice leader Carmen Chang, celebrated the official opening of its Shanghai office—its first outside the U.S.—in October 2007. A group of the firm’s U.S.-based attorneys traveled to China to attend the event, as well as a series of meetings with business leaders and government officials in Beijing and Shanghai.

- Earlier this year, Austin litigation associate Laura Merritt was named a fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation. Only one-third of 1 percent of Texas attorneys are granted admission to the group, which represents members of the Texas Bar who have demonstrated outstanding legal ability and devotion to the community, state, and country, as well as to the advancement of the legal profession.

- Seattle corporate associate Drew Markham was named a 2008 "Rising Star" by Washington Law & Politics magazine late last year. To be selected, attorneys must be age 40 or younger or have been practicing law for fewer than 10 years, and be nominated by one of Washington’s Super Lawyers. Only 2.5 percent of the attorneys in Washington State are named Rising Stars.

Events

- The Forum for Women Entrepreneurs and Executives (FWE&E) is an exclusive membership organization for women in senior positions at high-growth companies; technology transactions partner Suzanne Bell serves as a member of the organization’s National Board of Directors. In May 2008, the firm sponsored FWE&E’s Annual Spring Celebration, “The Art of the Connection,” which featured the works of selected women artists in attendance. In June, the firm hosted the inaugural session of FWE&E’s breakfast-discussion series, which featured a presentation on online media and social networking by business marketing and social-media strategist Ellen Leanse. In November, the firm is scheduled to host an FWE&E panel on corporate governance issues.

- On the sponsorship front, in December 2007, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati supported the Women’s Leadership Coalition’s drama production at Northwestern Law School, a play focused on the life of Clara Shortridge Foltz, the first woman lawyer in California. In March 2008, the firm sponsored the Women’s Bar Association of D.C.’s 2008 Initiative on the Advancement and Retention of Women program. In May, the firm served as the host sponsor of an Americans for UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) fundraiser luncheon benefiting the Campaign to Support Safe Motherhood Fund and the Eritrean Women’s Project, both of which are dedicated to improving women’s healthcare. In addition, the firm will sponsor Celebration 55, a women’s alumni event, at Harvard Law School in November 2008.

- Corporate partners Donna Petkanics, Katie Martin, Karen Dreyfus, and Allison Spinner hosted an evening of wine and hors d’oeuvres at Donna’s home for the firm’s women corporate attorneys in January 2008. A week later, the firm held a reception at Tamarine Restaurant & Gallery in downtown Palo Alto for women partners to welcome the newest additions to their ranks.

- On January 9, the firm hosted a Women in Biotech Breakfast at Postrio Restaurant in San Francisco. The informal networking event, attended by more than 20 next-generation biotech leaders, featured a presentation from Cathy Friedman, former managing director of Morgan Stanley’s biotechnology investment banking practice, and was held in conjunction with the firm’s sixth annual Biotech Board of Directors Dinner.

- Over the past year, the firm has held several well-attended Women’s Task Force meetings addressing work-life balance issues and other topics of interest to female attorneys. One session featured CEO John Roos speaking to the group about non-equity partnership, while another session open to summer associates addressed the on-campus concerns of women law students. In addition, the Women’s Task Force recently held a partner panel that featured women partners discussing their different paths to success within the firm and the challenges they have faced along the way.

Keeping Up with Alumni

- Priya Cherian-Huskins, Member, Board of Directors
- Realty Income
- Dr. Linda Grais, Partner
- InterWest Partners
- Sharmila Chatterjee Kassam, Assistant General Counsel, Investments & Securities
- Employees Retirement System of Texas
- Lara Payne, Senior Licensing Attorney
- Wyeth
- Kate Rundle, Executive Vice President and General Counsel
- Bookham