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TOP WOMEN IN THE LAW

2016 AWARDS





Elise Bloom



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If a corporation needs a lawyer to fend off a class action suit, Elise Bloom may be their first call. As co-head of Proskauer's class/collective action group and immediate past co-chair of its labor and employment department, she has fought for some of the most high-profile employers in the country, usually with success. She fended off a class action claim against Major League Baseball over paying volunteers and helped Coca-Cola Refreshments scuttle discrimination and retaliation claims. Most notably, she led a team that successfully defended Fox Searchlight Pictures in the precedent-setting "Black Swan" unpaid internship case. Bloom also serves on the board of Women in Law Empowerment Forum and is the only woman on Proskauer's executive committee.

If I weren't a lawyer, I'd be ...

A fashion designer. My family was in the clothing business. I was always inspired by how fashion combined creativity, art and business strategy.

The mentor/lawyer I most admire is ...

My mother. While not a lawyer, she taught me to believe that you can achieve success. She showed me the importance of not

sacrificing your values and the importance of empathy and listening.

What's the best advice anyone has ever given you?

Be compassionate, respectful and inclusive.

#1 survival tip in a work crisis:

Be present. Approach it head on. Be realistic about the challenges and ask for help if you need it.

Have you ever been treated differently on the job because of your gender?

When I started practicing, there were very few women in the field of law. To fit in, I learned as much as I could about the world of sports, which I had always loved. My sports knowledge allowed me to contribute to office conversations that would have otherwise been closed to me.

What must the legal profession do to improve opportunities for women lawyers?

The first is inclusion—thinking of female colleagues for pitches, client introductions, big cases and speaking, writing and media roles that offer visibility and an opportunity to showcase their capabilities. The second is giving women the tools to be successful.