KIMBERLY A. MOTTLEY

Partner, Proskauer, Boston Washington & Lee University School of Law



hen Kimberly A. Mottley competed in mock trial as a high school student, she realized just how much she loved analyzing legal issues and being in the spotlight in front of a judge. But she also loved math and science. So when she found herself working on a patent dispute as a first-year litigation associate, she was hooked and decided to pursue IP litigation full-time.

Seventeen years later, Mottley is one of Boston's leading IP litigators, achieving results for her clients while relishing the challenge of navigating those clients through some of the most sophisticated disputes.

"Many lawyers go to law school to avoid a career in math and science. Then there are those like me," she says. "I love learning enough about the technology involved in a case to allow me to explain it to a jury, and I love acting as a translator between engineers and the jurors who get to decide our cases."

When asked to identify her biggest win, Mottley points to an infringement verdict she obtained two years ago following a weeklong trial for a small patent-licensing entity, MobileMedia Ideas, against Apple. It was the first time she served as first-chair in front of a jury. That experience, paired with a victory against a tech giant, was exhilarating for her.

"We were up against Apple and they don't lose often," Mottley says. "They hire very good lawyers."

Meanwhile, Mottley has managed to rise to partner, serve her clients' needs and maintain busy pro bono commitments while working a 60-percent schedule that enables her to be more available to her family. It's a tough balance, but she says the key is having others surrounding her who want to make it work, whether it's colleagues at her firm or her family at home.

"You also need to understand you're 100 percent in both worlds all the time," Mottley says. "It's important to be flexible for your clients and take their calls at home and to be willing to take calls from home when you're at work."

— Eric T. Berkman

LAWYERS WEEKLY

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