

Chambers GC Influencers

USA - EAST 2019

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Introduction

TOBY ECCLESHALL

Editor - Chambers USA



Over the past decade, the role of in-house legal departments has expanded greatly. As such, General Counsel of the world's most innovative and sophisticated companies and organizations are regarded as among the foremost thought leaders in their fields and at the forefront of all major market developments. Our Chambers GC Influencers are recognized for their ground-breaking work and impact on the legal community.

Research Methodology: Our GC Influencers have been chosen following research among private practice lawyers and other in-house counsel. We identified the key areas in which GCs have displayed substantial influence:

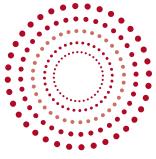
- Effective management and development of an in-house team.
- Navigation of substantial business projects and strategic business change.
- Understanding the pressures faced within industry.
- Bringing diversity & inclusion and CSR to the forefront of industry.
- Ability to influence and respond to regulatory change.

Our aim is to celebrate excellence within the legal profession. Our GC Influencers have created best practice pathways endorsed by both private practice and other in-house lawyers. In spotlighting their achievements, this list encourages collaboration among the in-house legal community





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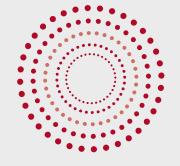
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Lucy Fato AIG



Lucy Fato serves as general counsel to AIG, holding a portfolio which includes leadership over the company's legal, compliance and regulatory affairs teams across the globe as well as its human resources function. She brings a wealth of diverse experience to bear for the company, having spent 14 years practicing in Davis Polk's corporate group and holding senior in-house roles at Marsh & McLennan, S&P Global and Nardello & Co.

Her arrival in 2017 came as the insurance giant began to reassert its muscle following its USD180 billion government bailout during the financial crisis, with 2018 seeing the legal team advise on major acquisitions such as the USD5.56 billion purchase of Validus Holdings and its deal to acquire Glatfelter Insurance Group. Her role in building a legal team equipped to handle such complex mandates finds favor among legal insiders, who report: "She and her team are all experts in this area who have been recruited from top law firms and they're smart, creative and collaborative lawyers."

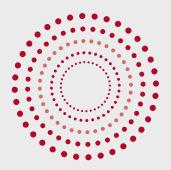
Fato also dedicates considerable time to philanthropic endeavors. She sits on the board of directors of Advocates for Children of New York, which works on behalf of children at risk of school-based discrimination, and on the board of Coalition for the Homeless. As one source puts it, "The professionalism she brings – not only with AIG, but also to the outside world, is much to her credit."

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Laureen Seeger American Express Company

Commentators speak highly of Laureen Seeger's "extremely practical" demeanor and offer considerable praise for her ability to "quickly grasp a situation and formulate an effective strategy for resolving issues." Her skillset as a problem-solver are in high demand in her current role as chief legal officer at American Express, where she oversees the company's legal, government affairs and secretarial functions as well as sitting on a number of its broader leadership committees.

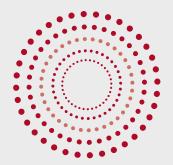
Seeger is held in particularly high esteem for her commitment to pro bono work. The legal team at American Express provide a wide range of legal and consulting services to local entrepreneurs, small businesses and non-profits, with recent examples including partnering with the Neighborhood Entrepreneur Law Project to provide pro bono legal advice to New York-based entrepreneurs.

Seeger arrived at American Express in 2014 from McKesson Corporation, where she had served as the healthcare company's general counsel. Previously, she was a member of the litigation practice group at Morris Manning.





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Ellen Steen American Farm Bureau Federation

Ellen Steen was appointed general counsel to the American Farm Bureau in mid-2010, beginning her in-house career after almost 15 years spent practicing at Crowell & Moring. In her current role, she is charged with overseeing the legal function at one of the most influential advocacy organizations within the United States, which sees her confront the dual challenge of handling both a broad spectrum of operational, governance and transactional matters as well as managing compliance issues arising through its extensive lobbying, political and legal advocacy efforts.

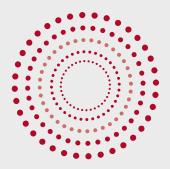
Her ability to overcome such obstacles earns her considerable respect in the legal community, with sources commending her "impressive blend of regulatory expertise and practical, problem-solving skills" and citing in particular her ability "bring many diverse industries to the table and advocate for positions in coalition" as a core strength.

Her recent work includes advising the organization on its dispute with the Environmental Protection Agency over its 'Waters of the USA' rule under the Clean Water Act, a long-running point of contention which featured a recent Supreme Court argument over jurisdictional issues.





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John Finley The Blackstone Group

John Finley's corporate law skills are regularly called to the fore in his current role as chief legal officer at Blackstone, with the prolific investment giant boasting over USD470 billion in assets under management across its real estate, infrastructure, private equity and hedge funds.

Finely, who headed Simpson Thacher's highly esteemed mergers and acquisitions practice before joining Blackstone in 2010, is held in particularly high regard for his transactional nous, with he and the 100-strong legal department demonstrating their deal-making credentials last year in Blackstone's USD20 billion acquisition of Thomson Reuters' Finance & Risk unit and the USD7.6 billion acquisition of Gramercy Property Trust.





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Joseph Wayland Chubb Group

Joseph Wayland receives plaudits for his "excellent judgment" and "unflappable" demeanor from market commentators, who also commend his ability to "grasp all of the necessary elements and produce very good judgement calls" when presented with complex legal issues.

His current role sees him serve as general counsel to Chubb, where he oversees the insurance company's government affairs, regulatory and legal matters. Wayland and the broader legal team also play a key role in the company's corporate social responsibility efforts, including Chubb's Rule of Law Fund – a fund which provides grants to organizations across the globe dedicated to improving the rule of law in their local jurisdictions.

Wayland's previous roles have included serving as general counsel to ACE, where he advised on the company's USD28 billion sale to Chubb, a stint in private practice at Simpson Thacher and a number of years in the Department of Justice, where he was appointing acting assistant attorney general in charge of the antitrust division.





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Michael Holston GE

Mike Holston was appointed as general counsel to GE in early 2018, having demonstrated his outstanding pedigree helping multinational companies manage complex legal challenges in his prior positions as general counsel to Merck & Co and Hewlett-Packard.

In his current role, Holston is tasked with steering the company's legal, compliance and ethics teams as well as serving as corporate secretary, with recent high-profile mandates including advising on the sale of GE's life sciences division to Danaher for USD21.4 billion. His ability to steer challenging mandates towards a successful conclusion earns him notable praise from the wider market, with sources commending his ability to "find solutions to problems that other people cannot."

Holston has also attained a strong reputation in the legal market for his commitment to diversity and his dedication to philanthropic causes. In his prior role at Hewlett-Packard, Holston played a key role in starting the company's pro bono program, while sources also describe him as being "at the forefront of improving diversity" in the legal profession through his hiring of "talented and diverse" teams.





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Stanton DodgeDraftKings

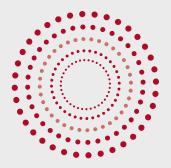
Stanton Dodge arrived at fantasy betting company DraftKings in late 2017, after having risen through the legal ranks over his two decades at DISH Network, where he had occupied the general counsel's position prior to departing. His role at DraftKings sees him advise the company's leadership on a broad manner of legal and government affairs issues, alongside overseeing the communications teams.

Dodge's arrival at DraftKings comes at a pivotal moment in the company's trajectory. In 2018, the Supreme Court's struck down restrictions imposed on states which prevented them from making sports betting legal, while DraftKings is also embroiled in similar disputes over its model in New York and Illinois. Dodge's key role navigating the company through a complex and uncertain future regulatory regime surrounding sports betting will therefore be a key factor as the company enters new markets across the US.





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Jaime El Koury Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico

Jaime El Koury built a fine reputation as a highly respected and effective corporate lawyer over his 35 years practicing at Cleary Gottlieb, with particular experience in Latin America-focused matters, before retiring from the firm in 2014. In 2017, his knowledge and expertise was called upon once more by the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico, where he was appointed as its general counsel.

El Koury's current role sees him handle a broad range of legal issues associated with the board's attempts to oversee the finances of the heavily indebted territory. His challenges include advising on the restructuring of its USD74 billion debt, a number of related litigation claims and counseling on the unique regulatory framework governing the process.





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Tom WettererGreenpeace USA

In a two decade-long career at Greenpeace, Tom Wetterer has attained an excellent reputation for his expertise in using legal means to accomplish the aims of the organization. Wetterer, who joined Greenpeace in 1998, provides oversight and counselling over a broad spectrum of disputes and lobbying efforts over environmental concerns, as well as advising on day-to-day issues at the Washington, DC-based organization.

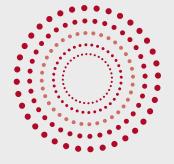
Alongside advising on environmental advocacy issues, Wetterer and the legal team at Greenpeace have also been confronted with litigation seeking to limit the organization's actions. In 2018, Greenpeace successfully defended itself against USD900 million RICO claims brought by Energy Transfer Partners concerning highly publicized protests against the construction of the Dakota Access pipeline, following a similar CAD300 million suit filed two years prior by logging company Resolute Forest Products which was similarly dismissed.





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Eve BurtonHearst



Eve Burton has spent 17 years leading the legal teams at Hearst, where her current role as the media company's chief legal sees her oversee legal issues arising across its 360 global business lines, while also heading its corporate human resources, labor relations and government affairs efforts. She has attained an excellent reputation for her expertise in shepherding media and entertainment companies through a raft of legal and regulatory issues, having previously served as general counsel to CNN, deputy general counsel to New York Daily News and practiced as a First Amendment lawyer at Weil Gotshal.

Burton also receives plaudits for her role serving as chairwoman of HearstLab, an accelerator which is dedicated to nurturing women-led startups in the media and technology sectors. Burton, alongside a wider group of Hearst business leaders, offer investment, networking opportunities and strategic advice to women business leaders, with its current roster including early stage companies focusing on areas such as ecommerce, data security and legal services.





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Michelle Browdy IBM

Michelle Browdy was appointed as IBM's first female general counsel in 2015, after having previously served as the secretary to the technology giant's board of directors and having headed its global litigation teams. In keeping with IBM's history of excellence in innovation, Browdy leads a legal team which is held in particularly high regard for its track record in embracing technology, particularly artificial intelligence and data processing tools.

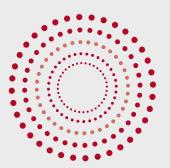
Browdy's ability to handle complex legal projects wins her a number of admirers in the wider legal market, with sources reporting that she has "distinguished herself in all respects" and applauding her "sharp and organized mind." Her ability to straddle both legal and broader strategic issues also earns her considerable praise, as legal insiders report: "She has really superb judgement about business problems and how, in the legal function, she can support the business and its goals."





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Pilar RamosMastercard



Pilar Ramos is held in particularly high regard for her dedication to improving diversity in the legal profession and more widely in the corporate world, both through her use of diverse teams of legal talent and through mentoring up-and-coming practitioners. Ramos also sits on the boards of LatinoJustice, a pressure group seeking the advance the civil and economic rights of Latin Americans, and on the board of Appleseed, which uses pro bono legal work to advocate for social justice at the policy level.

Ramos' current role sees her serve as general counsel for North America at Mastercard, to which she was appointed in 2015. Her 16-year career at the company has also seen her take on senior roles concerning policy and regulatory strategy and a regional role covering Latin America and Caribbean legal issues. Prior to joining Mastercard, she held senior in-house positions at DIRECTV Latin America and DeRemate.com, having begun her legal career as an associate at Simpson Thacher.





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Bradford Berry National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

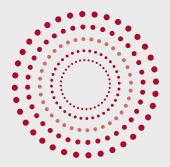
As general counsel of the NAACP, Bradford Berry leads a 5-strong legal team that belies its compact size with through its national reputation for legal excellence. Berry, in addition to managing the day-to-day legal affairs of the national organization and its 2200 chapters, is a highly skilled and effective lawyer with tremendous experience in using the legal system to enforce civil rights issues. Significant recent cases include litigation concerning voting rights, immigration and, most notably, a highly charged dispute with the US Government over the 2020 Census.

Berry brings a rich legal history to his current role, to which he was appointed in 2015. His previous experience includes practicing at Baker Botts and WilmerHale, serving as deputy chief of the enforcement bureau for the Federal Communications Commission and taking on the deputy general counsel role at the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.





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Kimberley Harris NBC Universal

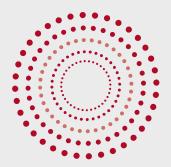
Kimberley Harris plays a dual role as both general counsel to NBC Universal and also executive vice president of its parent company Comcast, where she oversees Comcast's global government and regulatory affairs efforts. It is in the latter capacity where she played a key role in Comcast's highly publicized GBP30 billion acquisition of Sky, where she and her team demonstrated their excellent pedigree by securing regulatory approval for the deal across multiple international jurisdictions. Harris also earns respect for having led a sensitive investigation into workplace culture and accountability at NBC, arising after sexual assault allegations brought against NBC news anchor Matthew Lauer.

Harris' arrived at NBC following a number of years in private practice in Davis Polk's litigation department. Her previous experiences include serving in the Office of White House Counsel during the Obama Administration and in the criminal division of the Department of Justice.





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Michele Coleman Mayes The New York Public Library

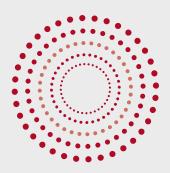
Michelle Coleman Mayes is widely considered as one of the most influential leaders within the US' legal market, borne out of her tremendous depth of experience in senior roles in the Department of Justice, Unisys Corporation, Colgate-Palmolive, Pitney Bowes and in her current position leading the legal team at The New York Public Library. Her experience and legal acumen have also been called upon by a variety of other external organizations, most notably demonstrated in her appointment to the Presidential Commission on Electoral Administration under President Obama, alongside numerous leadership positions within the American Bar Association and election to the boards of directors of Gogo and Assurant.

Mayes is held in particularly high esteem for her role as a leading advocate for women in the legal and broader business sectors. She currently serves on the board of directors for Legal Momentum, an organization using legal means to seek economic and personal security for women, and has previously chaired the American Bar Associations' Commission on Women in the Profession. Mayes also coauthored Courageous Counsel, an account on the rise of women general counsel at Fortune 500 businesses.





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Anastasia Danias Schmidt Major League Soccer

After forging an excellent reputation in the sporting world through her two decades within the legal department of the National Football League, Anastasia Danias Schmidt was appointed to her first general counsel role in May 2019 when she joined Major League Soccer. Her arrival comes at a time of significant expansion at the professional soccer league, including three new teams poised to join within the next two years, where Schmidt and her team will play a key role in areas including player matters, commercial issues, disputes and league governance.

Schmidt can rely on a wealth of experience in handling significant legal challenges to ensure success in her new environs, having played a key part in some of the most significant threats facing her prior employer. As the head of litigation at the NFL, Schmidt's successes included bringing to a close a highly publicized dispute over concussion-related claims from former players, defending allegations that players were given improper doses of painkillers and advising on antitrust litigation concerning the 2011 NFL lockout. Her abilities and track record in highstakes challenges earn her the respect and admiration of the wider market, with commentators describing her as a "fantastic lawyer who is smart, strategic and always has command of the room."



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Mitchell Bernard National Resources Defense Council

Few organizations are as adept at using the justice system to pursue environmental causes as the National Resources Defense Council, which has brought lawsuits against the Trump Administration over 80 times within the past two years. In charge of this mammoth legal effort is the NRDC's chief counsel, Mitchell Bernard, who coordinates a slew of environmental and human health litigation claims alongside a team of over 30 litigation specialists.

Bernard has spent almost three decades at the organization, having earlier held roles in private practice, the Department of Justice and, for a short period, as a lyricist and songwriter. Over the course of his career, he has brought a multitude of lawsuits against household name corporates as well as governmental agencies, with the organization's current caseload including disputes over offshore oil and gas drilling, litigation challenging reductions to the Bears Ears National Monument and representing citizens of Flint, Michigan, in claims arising out of its water crisis.





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Douglas Lankler Pfizer

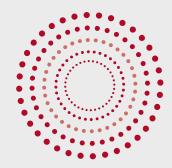
Douglas Lanker joined Pfizer's legal team in 1999 after a number of years in the Justice Department and a stint in private practice at Simpson Thacher. He ascended to the general counsel's position in 2014, having previously served as chief compliance and risk officer to the company, and is tasked with overseeing a legal department comprised of several hundred, internationally-based lawyers who handle a massive scope of regulatory and broader legal issues for the biopharmaceuticals giant.

His tenure at the helm of the legal department has seen the team flex its muscles on a number of high profile, international transactional matters. Shortly after his appointment in early 2014, Pfizer launched a USD118 billion attempt to acquire AstraZeneca, which was ultimately abandoned, followed by a similarly aborted USD160 billion bid for Allergan in 2016. Last year saw greater success in a landmark joint venture with GlaxoSmithKline, which combined both companies' consumer healthcare division into a single entity.





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Gwen MarcusShowtime Networks Inc.

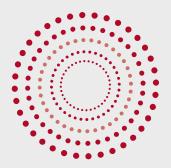
In her 25-year career at Showtime Networks, Gwen Marcus has built a formidable set of skills and breadth of experience to call upon when faced with complex legal problems at the television network, which range from regulatory, licensing, intellectual property and corporate governance matters. She and the legal team have also frequently found themselves defending against a plethora of claims related to Showtime's programming, including highly publicized class actions relating to its broadcast of the 2015 Manny Pacquiao-Floyd Mayweather boxing bout and a defamation claim brought by former Alabama Supreme Court Justice, Roy Moore, over his appearance in a Sacha Baron Cohen-fronted show.

Commentators describe Marcus as a "well-rounded general counsel and a trusted advisor," while also noting the trust and loyalty she engenders in the wider legal team. One source adds: "In her time at Showtime, she's commanded the highest regard of the people above her, her peers in the corporation and the team that works for her. She commands that respect because she's very effective, very prepared and very smart, and always looking out for the best interests of her company."





USA - EAST



John Wood U.S. Chamber Of Commerce

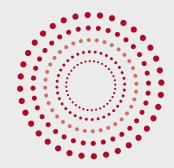
John Wood arrived at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce as its new chief legal officer and general counsel in May 2018, coming armed with a wealth of expertise in public policy issues through his service in all three branches of government and in his previous role advising clients on regulatory matters at Hughes Hubbard. Wood held senior legal positions within the Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security, White House Office of Management and Budget and also served as a clerk to Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, endowing him with considerable amount of experience in his new role handling legal, policy and regulatory issues at one of the nation's most powerful and influential pressure groups.

Wood's role also sees him take charge of the U.S. Chamber Litigation Center, a wing of the Chamber which uses the justice system to advance the interests of the business community. Wood, who has strengthened the team upon his arrival, oversees a group of experienced litigators and appellate specialists who make frequent appearances in courtrooms nationwide.





USA - EAST



Douglas Letter U.S. House Of Representatives

Few lawyers are as well-equipped to handle the maelstrom of legal and legislative issues faced by the House of Representatives' general counsel as Douglas Letter. His impeccable record of public service has seen him accumulate 40 years of experience defending the government's agenda under successive Republican and Democratic administrations, serving most recently as director of the appellate staff in the Civil Division of the Department of Justice until his retirement from the agency in early 2018.

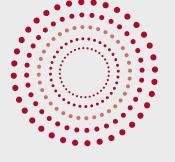
In his current role, Letter faces the unenviable task of advising on a barrage of subpoenas, litigation and wider oversight issues following the Democratic Party's success in the 2018 midterm elections, directed at the President, his staffers and a broad spectrum of corporate and financial entities. Last year also saw Letter make his second argument before the U.S. Supreme Court to challenge an attempt by the Trump Administration to place a question over citizenship on the upcoming 2020 Census.





USA - EAST

Brian EllisDanaher



Brian Ellis was appointed as Danaher's general counsel in early 2016, having previously served as chief legal counsel to Medtronic and held senior positions at GE Healthcare's legal group. His role sees him advise on a broad spectrum of legal, regulatory and compliance issues at the science and technology conglomerate, while also taking charge of its environmental, health and safety group.

Under his stewardship, the legal department has continued to demonstrate its strong affinity for complex transactional mandates. Shortly after his appointment, the company spun off a significant segment of its industrials segments into Fortive, while last year the company announced its intention to also spin off its dental division into a new public company. This year also saw Ellis put his insider knowledge of GE Healthcare to good use in Danaher's acquisition of his former employer's biopharmaceuticals unit in a USD21.4 billion deal.

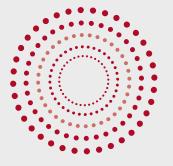
Prior to moving in-house, Ellis served as an Assistant US Attorney in Chicago and spent a number of years in private practice at Chicago firms Altheimer & Gray and Ungaretti & Harris.





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David Sorkin KKR & Co



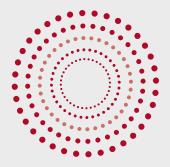
After forging a reputation as one of the country's finest dealmakers in a distinguished career at Simpson Thacher, David Sorkin was appointed as KKR's first general counsel in 2007. His arrival at KKR, a firm he counted among his clients in private practice, came as it geared up for its highly anticipated public offering, which was eventually completed in 2010. His tenure at the helm of the legal department has seen him continue to put his transactional capabilities to good use, with 2018 seeing the firm complete over 200 deals and boast almost USD200 billion in assets under management.

Outside of his day-to-day role, Sorkin also serves as the president of the board of directors for New Alternatives for Children, an organization that provides support for families of chronically ill or disabled children.





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Jennifer Berrent WeWork

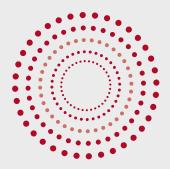
Jennifer Berrent was appointed as chief legal officer of WeWork in 2014 and is part of a leadership team that has seen the shared office space unicorn grow into a global real estate giant with over 650 locations spread out over more than 110 cities worldwide. Berrent played a key role in growing the legal team to meet the diverse demands facing the startup, which include management of its vast property empire, new office openings and an aggregate investment of almost USD4 billion from SoftBank over 2018.

Her record in leading WeWork's legal team earns her considerable praise from market commentators, who hail her ability to "organize and drive people to reach conclusions and move issues forward," while also citing her "quick mind which synthesizes problems quickly" as a key asset to the company.





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Rhonda Powell BuzzFeed

Rhonda Powell was appointed as general counsel at BuzzFeed in late 2018 and arrived with an excellent reputation for her pedigree in advising media and entertainment companies on a broad spectrum of legal and regulatory issues, borne out of her previous roles serving as general counsel of Complex Networks, vice president of business and legal affairs at Scripps Networks and as senior counsel to Reuters. Commentators describe her ability to "keep cool and approach legal issues with a calm head" as a key factor of her success in the industry, while also noting that she is "very sharp, astute and knows how to manage people well."

Powell also devotes significant time and resources to endeavors in the local community, outside of her role at Buzzfeed. She serves as a mentor to a number of New York-based law students and legal professionals and also sits on the boards of digital educational platform Power My Learning and Food and Finance High School, a Manhattan public high school which prepares students for a culinary career in addition to its academic program.





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Dan EsrickPillPack

Dan Esrick joined PillPack as its general counsel in 2017, where he helms a compact legal department which advises the online pharmacy delivery startup on its attempt to disrupt the bricks-and-mortar pharmacy sector. Esrick's role has included counseling the leadership on its expansion efforts, regulatory issues governing its delivery of pharmaceutical products and, most impressively, the USD753 million sale of the company to Amazon in 2018.

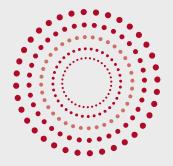
His efforts at the company earn him the respect and admiration of the wider legal community, with commentators offering considerable praise for his "outstanding legal and business judgement when working with the executive team on the best path forward." Sources also note Erick's wide-ranging skillset, reporting: "He really brings a full spectrum of advocacy experience to the table, alongside corporate and transactional savvy."

Prior to his arrival at PillPack, Esrick honed his skills in the biopharmaceuticals sector in in-house roles at Merck and Idenix Pharmaceuticals, having also practiced as an intellectual property litigator at WilmerHale.





USA - EAST



Breck Hancock DST Global

After almost a decade practicing in the transactional group at Goodwin, Breck Hancock was appointed as general counsel to growth equity investor DST Global in 2014, putting her in the driving seat of a legal department which has played a key role in the fund's minority investments in a number of household-name technology companies, including Facebook, Alibaba, Twitter and Airbnb. Hancock, who also serves as DST's chief operating officer, has a wide-ranging role with responsibilities over issues such as fund administration, compliance matters and steering transactional strategy.

She has earned a particularly impressive reputation for her skilled use of hybrid primary and secondary transactions in the firm's typically later-stage investments – deals which endow investees with a greater level of liquidity than usually associated with growth investments. Her transactional nous and legal expertise see her labelled as an "exceptionally skilled" practitioner by market commentators, who also note the "unique combination of legal and financial acumen" that she brings to bear for the firm.



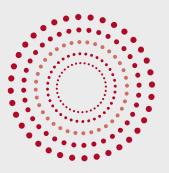


USA - EAST

Jill Simeone Etsy



Simeone arrived at Etsy in 2017 after having built an excellent reputation for her transactional savvy and technology expertise in roles at KCAP Financial, American Express, Roadify and CEMEX. She began her career as a prosecutor in New York County's District Attorney's Office.







USA - EAST

Joseph Kennedy Amarin

Amarin general counsel Joseph Kennedy commands respect for his role in two landmark regulatory disputes with the Food and Drug Administration concerning its lead cardiovascular disease treatment Vascepa. Kennedy led the company's in-house and external legal teams to bring novel First Amendment claims against the FDA to allow the promotion of off-label use of Vascepa, securing a favorable settlement after an initial trial victory, while also having successfully overturning the agency's initial denial of exclusivity for the drug.

His victories have earned him a distinguished reputation for legal excellence in the wider market, with commentators hailing his skills as an "extremely tactical thinker." Sources add: "He's certainly very facile with technical legal issues, but he really excels in focusing on the key issues from a tactical and strategic perspective."

Kennedy arrived at Amarin in 2011 from Transcept Pharmaceuticals, having also held senior in-house positions at Eyetech Pharmaceuticals and Elan Corporation. He began is legal career as an associate at Kelley Drye and Orrick, practicing in their corporate and securities groups.





USA - EAST

Paul GauronNew Balance

New Balance's Paul Gauron has played a key role in the development of the company into the footwear giant it is today, both externally as outside counsel and in his current role as its general counsel. Commentators describe him as a "very distinguished and influential lawyer" and a "real leader" among the broader executive suite, while also crediting him with building up the company's legal department into a diverse and talented in-house group.

He receives particular plaudits for coordinating and overseeing a number of high-profile trademark disputes, including the successful defense of a trademark claim brought by Converse over sneaker design and winning a USD1.5 million award in China over trademark infringement by domestic businesses – reportedly the largest trademark infringement award ever granted to a foreign company by the Chinese courts.

Alongside his strong track record in recent litigation matters, Gauron also demonstrates a real pedigree in complex transactional and corporate law work. Before arriving at New Balance, he spent almost a decade leading the business law practice at Goodwin, having also practiced at Hinckley Allen.



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