Laura Miller Named in the Triad Business Journal's 2023 Outstanding Women in Business List

Triad Business Journal

MAY 5, 2023 Written by Laura C. Miller

TRIAD
BUSINESS JOURNAL

OUTSTANDING
Women in Business
2023



LAURA MILLER

Partner, Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP

Business address: 1001 W. Fourth St., Winston Salem 27101

Education: Bachelor's, Davidson College; JD, Wake Forest University School of Law

Why selected: A sought-after trademark attorney, she recently successfully litigated a trademark dispute for a major apparel brand. She manages about 25 people in teams of attorneys, paralegals, and support staff in a variety of industries, including tech, consumer goods, apparel, entertainment, sports, food and life sciences. She has been instrumental in bringing in many major new clients to the firm. In addition to frequ-ent speaking engagements and continuing legal education programming, she has initia-ted and planned many of the firm's premier marketing events. Over the last five years, she has spent close to 250 hours on pro bono work, primarily on immigration cases. She was part of a team that led the conso-lidation of SciWorks with the Children's Museum of Winston-Salem, creating Kaleideum.

How did you get started in your career? I always knew I wanted to go to law school, but, strangely enough, I never really thought about what kind of lawyer I wanted to be. I was fortunate enough to spend my first summer after law school in Kilpatrick Townsend's Winston- Salem office. At first, it was the caliber of people in that office that attracted me. These were people I could see spending large amounts of time with working on complex matters. That said, I was not sure if I wanted to focus on litigation or transactional work. Each side appealed to me. I found the trademark and advertising practice to be a great fit for me because it is interdisciplinary. On any single day I might have a case in federal court, a case before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board, a license agreement to work on, and a call with a client about a celebrity engagement.

What are you passionate about? Other than my family and friends, I am passionate about children's education, creating kind and respectful communities, and supporting those with intellectual and developmental disabilities so they can live their best lives.

Achievement you are most proud of? The strength of the relationships that I have with those I love and care about. It can be very easy at a "big law" firm to become consumed by the work to the point that your relationships suffer. Knowing that these relationships are often a casualty of a demanding legal career, I have worked hard to maintain my relationships outside of work. I have been happily married for 22 years, I make sure my boys know the real me, I talk to my mom every day, I enjoy spending time with my in-laws, I get together with friends from before "big law" routinely (including my two best friends from elementary school), I see my aunts, uncles and cousins frequently, and I enjoy spending time with my colleagues and clients who are also friends.

Next big professional goal? I would like to get my practice to the point where I can focus on developing the talent in our firm and ensuring a pathway to partnership for those associates who work so tirelessly for our clients.

What do you like to do when you are relaxing or when you are not working? I make sure that I prioritize spending time with my husband and two boys, which is likely at one of the boys' basketball games or baseball games. I also enjoy traveling and spending time with my friends. But to be real, I'm usually catching up on sleep.

Tells us briefly about someone who fostered your growth and how it's influenced you: I have been lucky to have women at the firm that I would count among my best friends of my entire life. One has been key to my growth and success. We have similar backgrounds -- the first lawyers in our families and shouldering several responsibilities outside of work -- and we've pushed each other to keep at it when the headwinds were strong. We seek out opportunities to work together, we pursue potential clients together, and we call each other out when necessary. This relationship has been the reason I have fought through some challenging times in my career. I try to have similar relationships with other female colleagues and encourage younger associates to find a true ally and not to be afraid to ask for help.

The most unusual thing in your purse, briefcase, laptop bag or backpack right now? Key cards from what looks like every hotel I've stayed in the last three years! There must be thirty of them!

How have you supported other women as they pursue their careers? Women in big law firms face several challenges that are unique to them. For example, the time in your life when you need to step on the gas for your career can be the very same time that you are most consumed with raising children. That said, I am careful to not make assumptions about any woman's ambition, priorities or career goals and I seek out women to be on my teams. From the very beginning, I put them in front of clients and give them significant, but appropriate, areas of responsibility. I trust and I push, while also making sure that they have the support they need. In addition to helping organize official women's events, I informally mentor several women at the firm on all types of issues -- from the serious to the mundane -- and am very proud when the women who have worked with me reap their own professional and personal successes.

This article appeared in the Triad Business Journal on April 20, 2023. It has been reprinted by the Triad Business Journal and further reproduction by any other party is strictly prohibited. Copyright ©2023 Triad Business Journal, 101 South Elm Street, Suite 100, Greensboro NC 27401

Laura Miller was interviewed by the *Triad Business Journal* in honor of being named in their **2023 Outstanding Women in Business** list.

Related People



Kilpatrick



Laura C. Miller
Winston-Salem, NC
t 336.607.7466
lamiller@kslaw.com