

# WOMEN LEADERS IN TECH LAW

**S**AN FRANCISCO – After the events that have rocked Silicon Valley this year, are you more or less hopeful about the prospects for women in the tech industry?  
That's the question that we put to all 65 of The Recorder's Women Leaders in Tech Law this year.

From a viral blog post about Uber's culture, a Google engineer's internal memo suggesting women are biologically less apt to succeed in technical fields, and allegations of harassment at some of the Valley's most prominent VC firms, this year's biggest tech stories are a reminder of the challenges that women still face in the field.

But the response from our honorees was a resounding chorus of optimism. They pointed out that you can't address a problem until you define it and that sunshine is often the best disinfectant.

As lawyers, advocates and advisors, they also have a special role to play in helping the tech industry take on issues of discrimination, bias and harassment. They have tackled some of the industry's biggest courtroom challenges, negotiated market-moving deals, and helped protect the industry's most valuable intellectual property assets. Given all these accomplishments, the optimism is understandable.

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## DAVIDA BROOK

Associate, Susman Godfrey.

**D**avida Brook handled the multiday direct examination of leadoff witness Steve Lamar in his trial showdown with music moguls Dr. Dre and Jimmy Iovine over the sale of Beats Electronics headphones. Brook's client walked away at the end of trial with a \$25 million jury verdict for her client.

**Name an important opportunity you've had in your career and what you did with it?**

My colleagues. Their brilliance and support has helped me get to where I am today.

**What's the best piece of career advice anyone ever gave you?**

When my client's case was thrown out on summary judgment, I pushed to argue the appeal. I took the opportunity to become an expert in the area of law at issue which, when combined with my knowledge of the facts, contributed to a successful result for the client.

**Who is the most important mentor you've had thus far in your career? Why?**

Two years later we were in front of a jury which handed us a victory.

Ross Todd



Photo: Robert Millard