

# 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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## KALPANA SRINIVASAN

Susman Godfrey.

**K**alpana Srinivasan scored one of the biggest (if not the biggest) jury verdicts of the year in a trade secrets, fraud and breach-of-contract suit—a \$706.2 million win for her real estate valuation client HouseCanary. A San Antonio jury decided a Quicken Loans affiliate used a license as a pretense to reverse-engineer its own competing valuation model.

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

Show don’t tell. Nothing says more about your abilities than the quality of your work.

**No. 1 survival tip in a work crisis:**

Hazelnut americanos.

**In 50 words or less, how far has the tech industry gone toward tackling its gender gap since you started practicing?**

Two steps forward, one step back. But we can’t let the setbacks along the way overshadow the strides that have been made.

**What’s one way you’ve had to change your thinking toward practicing law to succeed with tech industry clients?**

Tech clients are used to moving fast and want input and guidance succinctly and quickly.

**What’s the best part about working in the tech sector?**

Innovative and interesting clients.

**What’s the biggest challenge?**

Keeping track of developments in a wide range of dynamic fields.

**What piece of advice do you give to lawyers considering a career in tech law?**

Jump in.

**What’s one way technology has made your life easier?**

Being able to set up a mobile office anywhere in the world.

**One way it’s made your life more difficult?**

It takes more time to manage communications across so many different platforms.

**Name an important opportunity you got early in your career and what you did with it?**

I tried a patent case very early in my career as an associate, and I made sure I had stand-up time in front of the jury through witness examination and argument.

Ross Todd



(Courtesy photo)