

WOMEN LEADERS IN TECH LAW

They're helping build new business models and defending them from court challenges. They're negotiating transformational deals that re-make companies and move markets. And through it all their clients—which run the spectrum from solo entrepreneurs to tech giants—rely on them for a steady hand and sound counsel.

How would we describe these attorneys? The same way their clients and colleagues do—calm, levelheaded, persistent, determined, tenacious, strategic, bold.

The Recorder's 2016 Women Leaders in Tech Law are leaders in board rooms and courtrooms across the Bay Area. They can't wait for Silicon Valley to come up with the next batch of inventions to squeeze more time out of each day—and to shorten their commutes. (Think beyond driverless cars... more like Star Trek teleporters.) They wish people would put their devices down during meetings and write shorter emails. And they've got some thoughts on how to ensure that the next generation of women are more equally represented in tech law.

Ross Todd
Bureau Chief

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KALPANA SRINIVASAN

Partner, Susman Godfrey

Srinivasan used to write about technology news. Now the Associated Press reporter-turned-litigator makes it. She's faced off against giants including Apple, Microsoft and Google in the patent arena, and she's part of a team representing fitness tracker maker Jawbone in its IP feud against Fitbit.

One word people use to describe you:
Colorful.

Favorite way to kill time on a cross-country flight?

Watching a dark independent movie.

What's your biggest pet peeve related to working in the tech sector?

It's hard to unplug—physically and mentally. The pace of law moves fast in this field and that requires keeping up.

What's the most valuable career advice anyone's ever given you?

Don't be complacent. Whether it is pushing a case forward or building out your

professional network, a successful career requires constant attention.

If I weren't a lawyer, I'd be...

A journalist writing about technology, as I once was.

One gadget you can't live without?

A good headset—which I use for calls on the go, but also to catch up on new music when I am out walking around town.

In 50 words or less: what can be done to tackle tech's gender gap?

Tech companies and the firms that represent them need to put women out front. It is not enough to have women among your ranks but hidden in the background. Women need to be in visible decision-making positions internally and, importantly, at counsel's table in the courtroom.

—Rebecca Cohen

