

WOMEN LEADERS IN TECH LAW

SAN 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 Partner

Kalpana Srinivasan of Susman Godfrey served as co-lead counsel to music group The Turtles and a class of recordings owners in their lawsuit against SiriusXM over unpaid royalties for pre-1972 recordings that settled in a deal valued at up to \$73 million.

What piece of advice do you have for young lawyers in tech?

Don't psyche yourself out—you can master the most complex of subject matters.

If I could change one thing about working in tech, it would be ...

Seeing more women at counsel's table.

The No. 1 issue that keeps me and my clients up at night is ...

For them: how to grow and advance their business.

For me: how to manage their litigation so they can focus on the above.

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?

More hopeful. The more attention and discourse around issues of gender in tech, the better. Transparency benefits us.

Do lawyers bear any special responsibility in addressing gender stereotyping and discrimination in tech?



Lawyers have the opportunity to forge a trail for those in other industries to follow. They need to use it.

—Ross Todd