

SIMPSON  
THACHER

# WOMEN'S CONNECTION

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*December 2007*

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The women of Simpson Thacher continue to do amazing things — making headlines for their legal work and earning accolades for their public service commitments.

Dear Friends,



Marissa C. Wesely  
Women's Committee Chair

As part of the Firm's Women's Initiative, we are pleased to launch this inaugural issue of the *Simpson Thacher Women's Connection*, a newsletter for and about the women of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, past and present. It is a forum to celebrate our many achievements, share our news and facilitate our networking efforts. Perhaps most importantly, the *Connection* will help us stay in touch with one another — no matter how far we travel from where so many of us began.

For those of you who have not been in touch with us recently, let me bring you up to date on a few developments. It is incredibly gratifying to see a marked increase in the number of women in the Firm's partnership ranks. We are delighted to report that of the eight associates recently elected to join the partnership on January 1, 2008, half are women: **Olga Gutman, Katharine P. Moir, Lesley C. Peng** and **Andrea K. Wahlquist**. Both Olga and Lesley are corporate attorneys in the Firm's New York office. Katharine is a tax attorney in our Palo Alto office. Andrea practices in the area of executive compensation and employee benefits in the Firm's New York office. Previously, Andrea held the position of Senior Counsel at the Firm. In addition, two women associates were elected to the partnership effective January 1, 2007: **Ellen Reilly Patterson** and **Kathryn King Sudol**, both corporate attorneys in the Firm's New York office.

In addition, this past year, insurance litigation specialist **Elisa Alcabes**, in the Firm's New York office, was made Senior Counsel; and real estate associate **Alison Joy Ando**, executive compensation associate **Rachel E. Berry**, corporate associates **Stefanie Birkmann** and **Kirsten L. Davis**, exempt organizations associate **Jennifer L. Franklin** and personal planning associates **Alison G. Silverman** and **Neera R. Stacy** — all from the Firm's New York office — were made Counsel.

**Kathy L. Rose**, who manages the Firm's client and management conflicts assessment process and insider trading and restricted list policies from our New York office, was also made Counsel this past year. **Joyce Y. Xu** joined the Firm's New York office this year as Counsel in the corporate department. In total, there are now 28 women partners (including two department chairs and one practice group head) and 23 women in Senior Counsel and Counsel positions.

Many of you may be aware of our quarterly Women's Lunches, which have featured such inspiring speakers as: Brande Stelling, Senior Director of Catalyst; Simpson alumna **Valerie B. Ackerman**, the first President of the WNBA and the current President of USA Basketball; and Barbara R. Arnwine, Executive Director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. We have also sponsored a number of women-oriented networking and public service opportunities:

- A cocktail reception for senior women attorneys and women clients;
- A breakfast, co-sponsored with Accenture, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art for senior women clients on the topic of "Visionary Leadership Through Non-profit Board Service";
- A suit drive to benefit Dress for Success, an international non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the economic independence of women by providing them with professional attire; and

- A program to highlight two pending pieces of New York State legislation to protect victims of domestic violence. The event was co-sponsored by The Lawyers Committee Against Domestic Violence and moderated by Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer.

We will update you with information on the Women's Initiative in future issues of the *Connection*.

Enough about us . . . we want to hear from you! Please provide us with news about yourself and other Simpson Thacher women, together with any comments on or suggestions for this newsletter, by clicking [here](#).

Thank you, and let's continue to stay in touch with each other.

**Marissa C. Wesely**

Women's Committee Chair

### ▶ Alumna Profile: Taking over the Reins at Lehman Brothers

*The Wall Street Journal* recently named the fifty "Women to Watch" in 2007, representing women with "the potential to make a significant impact on business in the year ahead." The list included the Chairman and CEO of Pepsico, the former Co-President of Morgan Stanley, the CEO of the London Stock Exchange and our very own Simpson Thacher alumna **Erin M. Callan** (STB '90 — '95) — who now serves as Chief Financial Officer of Lehman Brothers.

As a tax associate at Simpson Thacher, Erin represented Lehman Brothers. She ultimately left the Firm to join Lehman Brothers, where she quickly catapulted through the corporate ranks to become a star investment banker. This past year, she was named CFO. Erin is now also a member of Lehman's Executive Committee — the first woman member ever.

In her new capacity as CFO, Erin will serve at the helm of Lehman's financial organization, overseeing treasury tax and financial control and reporting.

## ▶ Alumna Profile: Turning Fact into Fiction

When former litigation associate **Martha Kimes** (STB '97 – '98, '00 – '01) first enrolled at Columbia Law School, she probably had no idea that her experiences there would lay the foundations for a literary debut. This past May, a division of Simon & Schuster published Martha's very first book, *Ivy Briefs: True Tales of a Neurotic Law Student*. The book is a Bridget Jones-style tell-all memoir of her experiences as a Midwesterner in the middle of Manhattan, swimming in a sea of competitive "Big Law" hopefuls.

Martha is now hard at work on her second book and has no plans to return to the practice of law.

## ▶ Alumnae Notes

Onetime corporate associate **Negar A. Ahkami** (STB '97 – '98) has become a recognized painter whose art reflects her first-generation experience as the daughter of Iranian immigrants. Negar's work was featured at a number of galleries this past year, including the Kravets/Wehby Gallery in Chelsea, LMAK Projects in Williamsburg, and the Longwood Gallery in the Bronx.

Former litigation associate **Deborah N. Archer** (STB '00 – '03) could certainly teach us a thing or two. She left Simpson Thacher to join the faculty at New York Law School, where she is now a Professor of Law and the Director of New York Law School's Racial Justice Project. She teaches courses in Racial Discrimination and American Law.

After several years away from the litigation department, former associate **Elisabeth Bassin** (STB '91 – '97, '03 – present) decided it was time to return. She is now the Director of Litigation Training at Simpson Thacher, running everything from workshops on basic deposition skills to seminars on understanding financial statements. Another associate who has transitioned into training is **Christine G. Symons**, who now oversees training for associates in the Capital Markets, Banking and Credit and Mergers & Acquisitions groups in her capacity as Manager of Corporate Training. Chris has been with the Firm since 1998 and has worked in both the London and New York offices.

For some alumni, there simply is no place like "home." After four years away, former litigation associate **Nihara K. Choudhri** (STB '99 – '03, '07 – present) is now back where she belongs: at 425 Lexington Avenue. Nihara now works on business development initiatives for the Litigation Department.

It was only fitting that former tax associate **Tamika Cushenberry** (STB '04 – '07) received the 2006 Cornerstone Award from the Lawyers Alliance for New York. Tamika was recognized for helping Wellness in the Schools, Inc. incorporate and receive federal, state, and city tax exemptions. The non-profit organization promotes children's environmental health, nutrition and fitness within the New York City public schools.

After six years in Simpson Thacher's corporate department, **Anne Pidgeon Callender** (STB '00 – '06) left to join the corporate/securities group at Time Warner's Legal Department. Anne still manages to find the time to give back to her community, serving on

the Board of Trustees of The Catholic Big Sisters & Big Brothers, a youth mentoring organization.

Former corporate associate **Yen D. Chu** (STB '97 — '06) left Simpson Thacher last year to join Polo Ralph Lauren as Vice President — Corporate Counsel and Assistant Corporate Secretary. In her new role, Yen is responsible for all corporate matters for Polo Ralph Lauren and its many subsidiaries. She also works on matters for the Polo Ralph Lauren Foundation, a non-profit corporation.

A specialist in government investigations and business crimes, former litigation Counsel **Valerie E. Caproni** (STB '01 — '03) is now arguably one of the most powerful women in the federal government. She serves as General Counsel of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, D.C. — a legal position, not a political appointment. "This is the coolest job in the world," says Val of her role. "I can be doing national security stuff in the morning, a Patriot Act issue after lunch and an employment problem in the afternoon."

When banking and credit associate **Vanessa E. Coke Cohen** (STB '02 — '06) left Simpson Thacher, there was a silver lining, so to speak. She now serves as Counsel to Silver Lake, a private equity firm focused on making large-scale investments in leading technology, technology-enabled and related growth companies.

Former litigation associate **Jennifer M. Driscoll** (STB '00 — '03) will be joining Mayer Brown as Counsel in the Firm's Antitrust & Competition Practice. Jennifer has represented clients in international cartel investigations, merger investigations before the European Commission, and Sherman Act cases in federal courts.

After her years as a real estate associate, **Kara S. Fricke** (STB '99 — '07) has taken on a new role as Senior Vice President and Real Estate Investments Counsel at Citigroup Global Wealth Management. She's traveled far, but she's still close to "home" — her new office is at 485 Lexington Avenue.

The American Bar Association recently recognized former tax associate **Jane Ellen Hoffman** (STB '85 — '88) with the 2007 Excellence in the Advancement of Animal Law Award. Jane was honored for her work as founding member and current Chair of the New York City Bar Association's Animal Law Committee, and President and Chairman of the Mayor's Alliance for New York City's Animals.

Former banking and credit associate **Janice D. Kam** (STB '97 — '05) now practices healthcare law — a longtime interest of hers — in her position as Senior Corporate Counsel at Pfizer Inc. Fortunately for her friends at Simpson Thacher, Janice's new office is just around the corner on 42nd Street.

Former New York, London and Palo Alto corporate associate **Karen King** (STB '97 — '02) left Simpson Thacher but remains in close contact with many at the Firm. She is now General Counsel at private equity firm Silver Lake.

Former litigation associate **Jennifer Kirby** (STB '98 — '01) now serves as Deputy Secretary General of the prestigious ICC International Court of Arbitration in Paris, a renowned institution for resolving cross-border disputes outside of the courtroom. She plays a leading role in administering the enormous docket of ICC cases, many of which are

high-profile corporate arbitrations. Jennifer was recently named among the "Leading Lights — 45 Under 45" by *Global Arbitration Review*.

Former associate **Laura J. Levine** (STB '89 — '94) is putting her litigation training to good use as an attorney at the Women's Justice Center at Pace University School of Law. The organization is dedicated to eradicating domestic violence and furthering the legal rights of women, children and the elderly.

Onetime litigation associate **Carrie A. Mandel** (STB '97 — '99) no longer practices law. Instead, she helps others find the perfect legal careers in her position as Executive Director of the prestigious executive search firm, Russell Reynolds Associates. Carrie focuses on recruiting General Counsel and other high-level legal and compliance officers to companies, as well as senior administrative professionals at law firms.

Former corporate associate **Patricia J. Meyer** (STB '00 — '06) recently took on the position of Vice President & Assistant General Counsel at Goldman Sachs Asset Management. She works primarily with the Goldman Sachs mutual funds and the businesses that support the mutual funds, including the funds' distributor and transfer agent. Her responsibilities include assisting on new product launches and advising on investment adviser matters.

After four years in the litigation department, **Maya Raghu** (STB '00 — '04) is now a Senior Staff Attorney at Legal Momentum, an organization that advances the rights of women and girls by using the power of the law and creating innovative public policy. Formerly known as the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund, Legal Momentum is the country's oldest national legal advocacy organization dedicated to achieving women's equality in all areas of life.

When it comes to the cutting-edge legal and ethical questions raised by medical advances such as organ transplantation, former litigation associate **Beth E. Roxland** (STB '01 — '07) is the expert. She was recently appointed Senior Attorney to the New York State Task Force on Life and the Law, a special commission that develops public policy on bioethical issues. Beth will be involved in shaping New York State's ethics policies for the new \$600 million stem cell research initiative, among other issues.

As litigation associates, **Dana C. Rundlöf** (STB '04 — '07) and **Manda M. Sertich** (STB '04 — '07) always went above and beyond the call of duty with their *pro bono* commitments to Sanctuary for Families, the largest non-profit organization in New York State dedicated exclusively to serving domestic violence victims and their children. Both Dana and Manda were recently honored with Sanctuary's 2007 "Above and Beyond" *Pro Bono* Achievement Award for the outstanding work they did while they were at Simpson Thacher. They are both now litigation associates at Foley & Lardner's New York office.

Former personal planning Counsel **Joanne R. Sternlieb** (STB '87 — '99) has left the corporate world to follow her own personal plan. She has her very own estate planning and trusts and estates practice — a venture that has been remarkably successful and featured in publications such as *SmartMoney*. Notably, two former personal planning associates — **Robin Yunis Easton** (STB '96 — '98) and **Pamela K. Henes** (STB '00 — '05) — work with Joanne on a flex-time basis. In addition to running her own practice, Joanne serves as Trusts & Estates Counsel to Barton Barton & Plotkin LLP, a full-service midtown firm.

After nearly eight years in the capital markets and securities group at Simpson Thacher, **Laura G. Wolff** (STB '99 — '07) decided it was time to try something new. She now serves as a Vice President at Lehman Brothers. She concentrates on transaction execution management, a new role within Debt Capital Markets.



*Dee Pifer and Friends*

### ▶ Bon Voyage, Dee!

Most current Simpson Thacher attorneys and alumni were hired by one amazing woman: our very own **Dee Pifer**. Dee is a legend here at the Firm. She built what we now know as the Recruiting Department, and had a significant influence in shaping our Firm's culture. It is Dee we have to thank for such Simpson Thacher institutions as the Central Park Zoo Party and the birthday cakes on the 29th floor.

This fall, after 25 incredibly dedicated years of service, Dee finally decided it was time to try her hand at some other things. For the short term, Dee will be making apple cider (yes, you read that correctly!) at Dunn's Cider Mill in Belton, Missouri. From there, she's looking forward to going wherever life takes her.

Some of us were fortunate enough to wish her farewell at a tear-filled departure party at which the line to hug Dee streamed out of the conference room and down the hall. But for those of you who have not yet had the chance to send Dee your best, she would like nothing more than to hear from you at [dpifer@stblaw.com](mailto:dpifer@stblaw.com) (an email address that will remain operational in the short term).



*Natalia Martín*  
*Director of Diversity*

### ▶ Enhancing the Firm's Diversity Initiatives

In recent years, the Firm has taken steps to increase diversity at every level. We have formed a Diversity Committee, headed by New York-based partners **John W. Carr** and **Victoria B. Bjorklund** and a Women's Committee, headed by New York-based partner **Marissa C. Wesely**.

The appointment in September of former corporate associate **Natalia Martín** to the newly-created position of Director of Diversity is the most recent development in this effort. Natalia brings a truly distinguished background to the position. A 1982 graduate of Harvard College and a 1985 graduate of Yale Law School, Natalia served first as an Assistant Dean and then as an Associate Dean at Yale Law School. From 2005 to 2007, she served as our Director of Legal Personnel and Professional Development. Natalia is a member of the New York City Bar Association's Committee to Enhance Diversity in the Legal Profession.

During the last two years, Natalia has built a reputation for supporting and enhancing diversity efforts at the Firm and in the legal profession. She is the recipient of the Yale Law School Latino Law Students Association Class of 2007 Award. Earlier this year, Natalia was also honored with the *Flor de Maga* award from the Puerto Rican Bar Association's Women's Committee for her efforts as co-founder of a series of networking breakfasts for

Latina attorneys in New York City called *Cafecitos*. The first *Cafecito* was held at Simpson Thacher's New York office in May 2006.

## ▶ Simpson Thacher Today

### ***In the Headlines***

We've always known that litigation partner **Lynn K. Neuner** (New York office) is a superstar, but now it's official. The January 2007 issue of *The American Lawyer* named Lynn one of the nation's top litigation "rising stars" in an article entitled "The Young Litigators Fab Fifty." After surveying hundreds of top litigators, *The American Lawyer* editors selected 50 young lawyers (age 45 and under) — including Lynn — who will be leaders in their fields for years to come. Lynn was also recently named a David Rockefeller Fellow for 2007 — 2008.

Litigation partner **Lori E. Lesser** (New York office) was featured on the cover of the April 2007 issue of *IP Law & Business*. She was honored as a "[n]ew breed of IP lawyer, combining corporate law smarts with IP expertise." Lori was recognized for her recent work on The Blackstone Group's \$3.3 billion acquisition of Cendant Corp.'s Travelport subsidiary, and its \$10.6 billion purchase of NXP Semiconductors.

If you want to know what life is like at the top, just ask corporate partner **Sarah E. Cogan** (New York office), who heads the Firm's Investment Management practice group. Sarah was recently profiled in Vault's new book, *The View from the Top: Q&A with Women Leaders*. The book presents advice from leading women lawyers on such important topics as professional advancement and work-life balance.

This past October, corporate partner and Women's Committee Chair **Marissa C. Wesely** (New York office) spoke on networking as part of a series of talks being presented by the Women in Law Empowerment Forum at the University Club in New York City. The Forum is sponsored by R.R. Donnelley & Sons Co. to advocate for women in the legal profession. Marissa was recently invited to join the Forum's Advisory Board. She also serves on the Steering Committee for the DirectWomen Initiative, an effort by the American Bar Association and Catalyst to increase the number of women lawyers on corporate boards.

Litigation associate **Deborah L. Stein** (Los Angeles office; Class of '99) was recently chosen by *The Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journals* as one of the Top 75 Women Litigators in California. Deborah was selected based on her lead role in two significant cases: *CalPERS v. Banc of America Securities LLC*, a suit brought by the largest pension fund in the United States arising out of the collapse of Enron in which we represented JPMorgan Chase, and *Insurance Company of the State of Pennsylvania v. Central Garden & Pet Co.*, an insurance coverage dispute in which we represented the plaintiff insurance company.

When she's not busy practicing law, corporate associate **Andrea F. Andrezo** (New York office; Class of '04) spends her time analyzing the financial markets. The Brazilian Editora Atlas recently published the third edition of her book, *Mercado Financeiro — Aspectos*

### ***And the award goes to . . .***

First-year tax associate **Sima J. Gandhi** (New York office; Class of '07) is already making a name for herself. She recently won the 2007 Hamilton Project Economic Policy Innovation Prize from The Brookings Institution for her paper, *Viewing Education Loans through a Myopic Lens: A Revenue-Neutral Proposal for Accelerating Student Loan Subsidies*. Former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Robert Rubin presented the prize to Sima at a Washington D.C. awards ceremony in late October. Sima was also invited to publish her proposal as a Hamilton Policy Paper.

Litigation associate **Julissa Reynoso** (New York office; Class of '01) has been recognized two years in a row with the Legal Aid Society's *Pro Bono* Award for her efforts on the Northern Manhattan Immigration Defense Project, an initiative she co-founded. The project offers free legal counsel on immigration-related issues to New York City residents. This is not the first time that Julissa has been honored for her commitment to social justice and the defense of immigrants' rights. In 2005, she was named one of the top 25 most influential Latinos in New York City by the *New York Post*. That same year, she was recognized as one of the Outstanding Latinas of the year by *El Diario La Prensa*, one of the country's leading Spanish-language newspapers.

Corporate associate **Vanessa Bressler** (New York office; Class of '02) was recently honored by Common Ground, the leading non-profit organization dedicated to ending homelessness. Vanessa was recognized for her outstanding contributions at the organization's Annual Meeting and Awards Celebration this past June.

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### ***Engaging speaking***

For those of us who could use a lesson or two on equity derivatives, there was no better place to be this past September than ACI's Equity Derivatives Boot Camp, held in New York at the Flatotel. The conference featured an outstanding group of speakers, including seasoned practitioners and business leaders in the equity derivatives field, and attracted a broad group of attendees from various law firms, financial institutions and hedge funds. A co-chair of the event and a key speaker was **Joyce Y. Xu** (New York office), Counsel in the corporate department and a derivatives expert. An accomplished lecturer, Joyce also recently spoke at an ISDA conference on equity derivative transactions.

Corporate partner **Marissa C. Wesely** and litigation partner **Lynn K. Neuner** (both of the New York office) went to New Haven this past March to serve as moderators for two panels at a Yale Law School conference entitled "Legally Female: What Does It Mean to be Ms. JD?" The conference brought together law students, attorneys and law professors from across the country to explore the experiences of women in the legal profession.

The legal aspects of public investment funds can be difficult to decipher. Fortunately, corporate partner **Sarah E. Cogan** (New York office) is more than willing to share the wealth, so to speak. She is a regular panelist and lecturer, most recently moderating a panel at the Investment Company Institute's "Closed-End Funds Workshop" and speaking at a

Practicing Law Institute Seminar on "The ABC's of Mutual Funds."

If you've ever thought of serving on the Board of Directors of a non-profit organization, then exempt organizations associate **Marion E. Ringel** (New York office) is an excellent resource. In May, she spoke at a New York City Bar Association panel entitled "The Role of an Attorney on a Non-profit Board." This month, Marion spoke again at a New York Lawyers for the Public Interest panel discussion entitled "Non-profit Board Service for Law Firm Associates." Marion also spoke on this topic at the most recent Simpson Thacher Women's Lunch, together with exempt organizations partner **Victoria B. Bjorklund** (New York office).

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### ***Appealing appointments***

Despite her busy caseload, litigation partner **Mary Kay Vyskocil** (New York office) always makes time to serve the legal community at large. She has served as Co-Chair of the prestigious Federal Bar Council's Annual Fall Bench & Bar Retreat for several years running, and she was recently elected Secretary of the Council. She was also recently elected to the Board of Directors of ARIAS, a non-profit corporation that promotes improvement of the insurance and reinsurance arbitration process for the international and domestic markets. Notably, Mary Kay is also a loyal supporter of her law school *alma mater*, currently serving as President of the St. John's School of Law Alumni Board.

A true intellectual, exempt organizations partner **Victoria B. Bjorklund** (New York office) earned a Ph.D. in medieval studies at Yale before going to law school. She was recently elected to the Board of Trustees of the Institute for Advanced Study, one of the world's leading centers for theoretical research, intellectual inquiry and fundamental scholarship. Past faculty members at the Institute have included such larger-than-life characters as Albert Einstein.

Litigation partner **Mary Beth Forshaw** (New York office) was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the Legal Action Center, the only domestic non-profit law and policy organization dedicated to battling discrimination against people with histories of addiction, HIV/AIDS, or criminal records; and advocating for appropriate public policies protecting the rights of these individuals. The famed Vera Institute of Justice established the Legal Action Center more than thirty years ago. Mary Beth also currently serves as Co-Chair of the Firm's Personnel Committee.

▶ Send Us Your News!

We would love to hear what you are doing now. Please provide us with news about yourself and other Simpson Thacher women, comments and suggestions for the *Connection*, and anything else you'd like to share, by clicking [here](#).

Don't forget that you can access our online Alumni directory by visiting [www.simpsonthacher.com/alumni](http://www.simpsonthacher.com/alumni), and entering your username and password. If you do not have login information for AlumniNet, please email [Jeanette Ponce \(jponce@stblaw.com\)](mailto:jponce@stblaw.com). Remember to update us with any new contact information.

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