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WOMEN LEADERS IN TECH LAW: CHRISTA ANDERSON COOLEY

Q&A Christa Anderson, an intellectual property partner who recently joined Cooley from Kecker, Van Nest & Peters, is being recognized as one of 20 Women Leaders in Tech Law as part of The Recorder's California Legal Awards.

The intellectual property litigator is co-leading a team representing DexCom Inc. in patent litigation against Abbott Laboratories over 17 patents related to blood glucose monitoring technology, a major growth market for the companies.

Anderson recently shared with The Recorder her accomplishments over the last year and advice for women starting out in tech.

What's your proudest professional achievement of the past year and why? At this point in my career, I derive a great deal of satisfaction and pride from watching the young lawyers on my teams knock it out of the park when they take on career firsts — whether it's their first interview, first deposition, first oral argument or first trial witness. I have had the good fortune of working with

really smart young lawyers, and I enjoy giving tips and advice to ensure they confidently step up to the next challenge. In this past year, I've been able to play that role for young lawyers who presented their first witnesses in jury trials and argued their first claim construction hearings. Each and every one of them did a fabulous job, outshining much more experienced lawyers on the other side.

What's one piece of advice you'd give to a woman starting out in tech law?

Although we have certainly made a lot of progress, there is still a lot of work left to do to ensure that the tech law industry is fully diverse/equitably balanced. It is a common occurrence to show up at a hearing or trial and be the only female attorney presenting argument to the court. My advice? Don't be dissuaded by this lack of diversity; be motivated by it to participate and change things. Jump into the field and help make things better for the younger women following you. It's a fascinating area of the law.



Courtesy photo

Christa Anderson of Cooley.

What is a group or tool that has helped you grow in your career or contributes to the development of pipelines for women leaders in tech law?

I've found social media sites like Facebook to be a great tool for staying connected to women lawyers who have moved on to different places of employment.

Do you have a memorable women-helping-women moment in your career during the pandemic?

Outdoor hikes with fellow women lawyers were a great way to have in-person time with friends and colleagues, at a time when we all needed a way to connect in person safely with our women colleagues.