



NOVEMBER 1, 2022

WOMEN LEADERS IN TECH LAW: JAMIE LEIGH COOLEY

Q&A Jamie Leigh, a Cooley partner in San Francisco, is being recognized as one of 20 Women Leaders in Tech Law as part of The Recorder's California Legal Awards.

In 2021, Leigh led Cooley's mergers and acquisitions team on Zoom Video Communications' announced, and then terminated, agreement to acquire call center software provider Five9 in an all-stock transaction valued at approximately \$14.7 billion.

Leigh is also a mental health advocate and co-founder of The Shift, an app that curates tools for mindfulness.

Leigh 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?

There are two. In light of market volatility we've experienced this year, I continue to be proud of the consistency of elite counsel and comfort our team provides to market-leading tech and life sciences clients. We work every day to position our clients for the challenges and opportunities on the horizon. We have a cutting edge and wonderfully collegial team—all of our lawyers and staff worked tirelessly amid the frenetic M&A pace of the past few years. Notwithstanding

the roiling markets, Cooley continues to earn top league table recognition based on overall deal counts. Whatever the current disruptions bring—we always counsel that disruption presents opportunity. Our clients are pivoting to updated strategies, realigning business priorities, and preparing for challenges such as shareholder activism, hostile investors, and ESG scrutiny.

On a personal note, I'm incredibly proud to be a new mom to my son who was born in July.

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

One step at a time! The reality of modern working life can often be "a lot," but consistency and discipline—even if tiny bits each day—really do create the momentum required for career trajectory. In our tech and life sciences-dominated legal market, we all work to balance elite legal acumen with our practical and authentic voices as counsel to client business needs.

Success in any endeavor comes from sustained vision. Setbacks can and will happen, that's normal and to be embraced for the learnings and humility those moments afford. Try to find confidence each day in your vision, voice and presence. Leverage your energy in specific ways that get you closer to your vision—one step at a time.



Courtesy photo

Jamie Leigh of Cooley

Feeling stuck? Turn to your network and re-center. It's just as important to cultivate a supportive workplace culture as it is to have a roster of clients or external "wins."

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?

For me, the most important factor aiding growth is personal networks—formal and informal—of supportive and diverse teammates. Cooley is deeply committed to the recruitment and cultivation of its diverse talent base. I'm proud that the firm has been celebrated for standing apart in having equal gender representation in leading roles across M&A deals, compared to the 19 other firms handling the most significant M&A transactions from 2014 to 2020.