

## INFLUENTIAL WOMEN

For all the progress that has been made toward gender equality in the United States, many glaring disparities still exist, most notably when it comes to pay. Additionally, studies have shown that women continue to be underrepresented in corporate boardrooms, among law firm partnerships and in the C-suite.

Despite these challenges, however, women are making a significant impact in the business world, especially in San Diego.

So for our inaugural Influential Women section, we wanted to showcase the unsung heroes of the San Diego County business community. Those women whose stories have yet to be highlighted, but who are helping manage tricky construction projects or handling multimillion-dollar real estate leases. Those who are litigating complex intellectual property lawsuits and launching innovative products.

The women on the list have had an impact on their company, industry and community. Many hold leadership roles in industry organizations. They are paving the way for future generations and making life better, not only for women, but for men, too.

As you read, we believe you'll agree that San Diego County is home to some of the most influential women in the country.

— The Editors

### INFLUENTIAL WOMEN

LAW

## Nadia S. Sager

LATHAM & WATKINS LLP  
PARTNER

Corporate lawyer Sager knows her way around fund formation and joint ventures after 21 years in practice, but she didn't have a precedent for guiding Latham & Watkins LLP's diversity initiative 3½ years ago.

"I remember thinking at the time, 'What's the one thing I need to fix?' Now that seems funny to me because it takes so many, many approaches to infuse a culture of diversity into the DNA of an organization," said Sager, a partner and local corporate department chair in Latham & Watkins' San Diego office.

Sager created and chairs the firm's Global Diversity Leadership Committee, a group tasked with bolstering the success of those traditionally underrepresented in the legal field — those of different races, ethnicities, religions, sexual orientations, cultures and languages.

"We believe that this law firm will be stronger if it's more diverse," she said.

The committee has spearheaded programs including an annual diversity leadership academy that brings together lawyers and law students from around the globe for a weekend of meaningful career guidance and



mentorship. Sager has also guided Latham & Watkins' work in forming affinity groups, focusing on diversity in recruitment, and making summer internship programs more inclusive.

Meanwhile, Sager's legal expertise is in private investments. As a member of the Latham & Watkins' investment funds practice, she represents private fund sponsors and investors as they maneuver the regulatory complexities of forming, investing in and

operating private investment vehicles.

Her work to better the firm's diversity is both the right thing to do and good for business, she said.

"It's incredibly compelling," Sager said. "If you look at the population and the talent pool where your new hires are coming from, the demographics are changing. Millennials and post-millennials value diversity. It's an incredibly powerful force that's going to change the economy."

— Jennifer McEntee