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ALLISON SCHNEIROV, 44

SKADDEN, ARPS, SLATE, MEAGHER & FLOM
New York

45 UNDER 45

How did we pick these outstanding young lawyers? Let us explain.

Edited By Julie Triedman

WHETHER IT'S "DEALMAKERS OF THE YEAR," "Litigation Department of the Year," "Big Suits," or "Big Deals," the pages of *The American Lawyer* typically brim with pictures of men. But time and again, we've come across remarkable women lawyers, many of whom fell outside of our deals-and-suits-heavy coverage. To give them their due, we decided to identify the best of the best among young women lawyers in The Am Law 200, and bring them together in a single issue.

We called various industry sources and also invited The Am Law 200 to submit a maximum of five nominations per firm. All told, we had more than ten nominees for each spot on our "45 Under 45" list, so our team of reporters and editors could afford to be picky. In the end, we passed over the many ink-worthy "rising stars" in favor of a few dozen women who—despite their youth—have already arrived. Some are well-known, others less so. But all have achievements we could quantify: They are leading billion-dollar deals or financings, first-chairing high-stakes litigation, arguing appeals, or managing important firm clients. We also looked for those with an upward trajectory at their firms, whether taking on progressively larger roles, heading important firm initiatives, or bringing in significant new business. We also recognized a few women who have built successful original practices, like privacy law or clean tech, or have taken their practices to new places, whether that be public international law or the Middle East. One thing we didn't take into account: A lot of these lawyers are juggling careers with raising young children.

After the initial vetting, we got on the phones. Every finalist was screened by an *American Lawyer* reporter, who reviewed her record and called clients and opposing counsel. Then we tried to distill it all into approximately 125 words per profile. It was a big job, but these women are worth the recognition. Read on.

—JULIE TRIEDMAN

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AFTER SCHNEIROV DISPLAYED an unusually high level of maturity, judgment, and command of the table as an associate, says The Blackstone Group L.P.'s former chief legal officer Robert Friedman, she was retained to handle subsequent transactions, like the \$17.6 billion consortium acquisition of Freescale Semiconductor, Inc., in 2006, the largest buyout Blackstone had consummated at the time. It's just one highlight in a career littered with big-ticket deals for the likes of Littlejohn & Co. L.L.C. and Marathon Asset Management, L.P., two other clients that she manages for the firm. Schneirov sits on Skadden's policy committee as its youngest member; and the former competitive figure skater still finds time for the Figure Skating in Harlem charity, for which she gave 160 pro bono hours last year.