

Litigation

An Interview with Noelle M. Reed, Partner, Securities Litigation; Complex Litigation and Trials, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP



Noelle M. Reed

EDITORS' NOTE Noelle Reed is the head of Skadden's Houston office and the Houston litigation practice. She has extensive experience representing clients in complex litigation in state and federal trial and appellate courts and arbitrations. She was a trial attorney with the Department of Justice's Terrorism and Violent Crime Division and an assistant United States attorney in the Southern District of Texas. As a prosecutor, she handled criminal cases involving terrorism, public corruption, fraud, organized crime, drug trafficking, money laundering, environmental violations and tax offenses. Reed recently served as a member of Skadden's Policy Committee, the firm's governing body. She is a member of the American

Law Institute and is listed in Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business as well as The Best Lawyers in America and Lawdragon 500 Leading Lawyers in America. She also was named Best Lawyers' 2021 Houston Litigation – Mergers and Acquisitions Lawyer of the Year.

You served as a trial attorney with the Department of Justice's Terrorism and Violent Crime Division and as an assistant United States attorney in the Southern District of Texas. Will you discuss these experiences and how valuable they have been in your current work?

Working as a prosecutor gave me the opportunity to try a wide variety of cases in multiple jurisdictions – invaluable experience that is very difficult to replicate in private practice. The intense pace of the Laredo docket and the nature of terrorism investigations both required me to hone my ability to make high-stakes strategy decisions quickly and often with less than perfect information. And because trials and investigations are always team efforts, I learned how to work collaboratively and leverage the different skills of team members to achieve a common goal. The biggest change for me in switching to civil litigation was the addition of a client to that mix. As a prosecutor, your client is more of an abstract concept. I already loved trials, but I've really enjoyed helping clients get through – or avoid – litigation and working with them to achieve their business goals.

Will you provide an overview of your position and areas of focus?

I serve as Skadden's Houston office leader and head of the Houston litigation practice. I split my time between securities litigation and commercial trial work. I'm still really a generalist as a trial lawyer, which means I often get to work closely with my partners across the firm who have deep expertise in a particular subject matter or field of law. It's a testament to the success and strength of Skadden's platform that we are able to bring robust trial experience and deep industry knowledge together to build extraordinary litigation teams.

In my role as leader of the Houston office and its litigation group, I am acutely focused on the related tasks of growing our office and continuing to develop and retain our next generation of talent through mentoring and training young lawyers.

Please describe Skadden's Houston office and its areas of focus.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of our Houston office. We serve clients in the energy, financial and petrochemical industries in commercial and corporate transactions, as well as in all types of litigation and investigations. We have handled some of the largest deals involving Texas-based companies along with precedent-setting litigation in courts throughout the state.

We are deeply committed to serving the local community through our pro bono work in a broad range of matters. And we put our competitive nature to good use as spirited competitors in the Houston Food Bank's annual Food From the Bar Campaign. ●

M&A

An Interview with June S. Dipchand, NY Partner, Head of Canadian Mergers and Acquisitions Practice, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP



June S. Dipchand

EDITORS' NOTE June Dipchand is a New York-based corporate partner concentrating in mergers and acquisitions, securities law, and general corporate law matters. She advises public and private clients in connection with various U.S. and cross-border corporate transactions, including negotiated and contested acquisitions, dispositions, SPACs, mergers, joint ventures, leveraged buyouts, carveouts, strategic investments, financings, restructurings, recapitalizations, and reorganizations. She has been recognized in IFLR1000, has been repeatedly named by Lawdragon as one of its 500 Leading Dealmakers in America and has been named by MergerLinks as one of the top 10 M&A Lawyers for Canada. Further, she is active in pro bono and diversity initiatives, both within and outside

the firm. She currently sits on the board of directors of the Legal Aid Society in New York and co-chairs the board's diversity subcommittee

How do you describe Skadden's culture?

The energy, vision, and tenacity that defined Skadden in its early days remain very much a part of our culture today, and I often feel as though I am part of a collective effort to continue to maintain and build upon that legacy. We are committed to excellence and going above and beyond for our clients – our approach to client service reflects the understanding that we do our best work as part of a diverse team, working together across offices and practices.

Will you provide an overview of your position and areas of focus?

I'm an M&A partner based in Skadden's New York office, and I manage the Canadian cross-border M&A practice for our Toronto office. I focus on complex international transactions, governance matters, takeover preparedness, and other corporate law matters. I cover a broad array of transactions – varying by size, type, industry, and geography – as I have a diverse spectrum of clients. I spend considerable time traveling throughout Canada, where connecting in person with clients and local firms has been invaluable to building trust and enduring relationships in the region.

Will you elaborate on Skadden's Canada M&A practice?

Our Toronto office was founded more than 30 years ago, and over the past three decades we have gained extensive experience advising clients in connection with transactions and capital markets matters involving Canada and Canadian companies. The practice has grown significantly over time, and it's been exciting to be part of growing our footprint in the country.

I think what has helped us succeed in Canada is the strength and interconnectedness of our global platform – attorneys across the firm regularly work on multi-jurisdictional, multi-disciplinary teams, and Canada and the U.S. rank among the countries we most frequently see involved in cross-border deals. We also maintain strong relationships with local Canadian law firms to ensure we're seamlessly providing our clients with full-coverage service on these matters.

Do you feel that there are strong opportunities for women to advance in their careers and take on leadership roles in the legal profession?

There's still a lot of work that needs to be done in the legal field – and in the broader business community – when it comes to achieving equitable representation for women. But I've been encouraged by the progress I believe has been made since I started my career. People are more open to speaking about these issues, I've seen increased representation of women on both sides of transactions, and there are more women in senior positions internally at clients. I have been fortunate in my career at Skadden to feel supported in my professional growth, and I try to pay it forward to the next generation of lawyers through my role as a mentor. It's one of the most direct ways I can help increase representation of women at all levels of the field. ●