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This week's Q&A with

Julie Mahaney

Julie Mahaney is a Partner in Locke Lord's Regulatory and Transactional Insurance Practice Group based in the Hartford office. She's a responsive, practical and proactive adviser to businesses on a broad range of complex corporate and regulatory issues, with a particular focus on the completion of sophisticated transactional matters.



More About Julie

Tell us about the most interesting or significant matter you've worked on in your career.

One of the most memorable matters I worked on was early in my career and involved assisting a financially distressed, regulated company at the brink of being shut down find an acquisition partner so the nearly 200-year-old company could remain in operation. I worked very closely with company management to guide them through the transaction and was given the opportunity to attend all negotiations as well as public hearings and meetings on the transaction. Over a year and a half after the matter came in, we celebrated the closing of the acquisition with the company's management. Today, the company is financially strong and continues to serve its historical community.

What has helped you to become successful in your field?

Aside from hard work and taking the time to dig into projects, the one thing that has allowed me to succeed is my colleagues, many of whom were more senior in their careers when I began working with them. They always gave me the opportunity to take on significant portions of projects and get my hands dirty very early on in my career. They then spent significant time with me enhancing the final products. This gave me a hands-on learning experience, which I was able to independently supplement with educational opportunities to provide me with a very steep learning curve early on in my career. These learning experiences gave me a great foundation in transactional and general corporate matters, which has allowed me to succeed.

Did you have a mentor? If so, tell us the most important things you learned from them.

I have been fortunate to have many formal and informal mentors, both female and male, throughout my career who were always there to discuss ideas, strategize on an approach or to confirm I was generally in the right ballpark on a project. I learned a tremendous amount from each of them, from work ethic to stylistic approaches. One of my long-standing mentors taught me the importance of focusing on developing great legal skills, and always remaining educated on current issues in your field since there is constantly something new to learn.

What do you do to relax and reset after a long week?

These days, with three children under 5 (including a 3-month-old), my idea of relaxing is doing errands without my three little “helpers” in tow or a drive home from our morning activity if all three naps miraculously align. Aren’t you envious? On a serious note, my husband and I are thrilled if all three kids cooperate for a hike, bike or walk, as it gives us a semblance of our former life and a chance to clear our minds. Bonus if we get some time to have some wine or beer and watch something other than *Paw Patrol*. We also take full advantage of lazy summer days relaxing at our pool or at a local beach, with the occasional early evening ice cream trip or bonfire.

If you could have dinner with one person, living or dead, who would it be and why?

This would be hard to choose, but I would have to say dinner with my maternal grandmother who passed away 10 years ago this month. I grew up as one of five kids (and the only girl), so my grandmother was always helping my mom take care of us and shuttling us to our never-ending activities, be it sports, educational extracurriculars or art programs. Despite helping us, my grandmother also worked as an accountant, held leadership roles in several community organizations and had an active social life. She was a true role model for me, and I can only hope to have her charisma and energy late in my life. It would be great to share all the wonderful moments I’ve had in the last 10 years, for her to hear all about her three great-grandchildren and for me to hear her boisterous laugh again.

What is your favorite thing about, or to do in, Hartford, Connecticut?

As a practitioner in the insurance industry, I obviously love that Hartford is known as the insurance capital of the world and is currently hosting several new initiatives in the InsurTech space. It is truly an exciting time to be working in Hartford. On a more leisurely note, a night out at Dunkin’ Donuts Park (the “Best Double-A Ballpark in America” for the last two years and home of the beer bats) to root on the Yard Goats is an awesome time!



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