

## 2011 TOP WOMEN OF LAW

# SUSAN W. MURLEY

Partner | WilmerHale, Boston | Tufts University, University of Virginia School of Law



JOHN MECKLENBURG

WilmerHale partner Susan W. Murley is set to achieve a couple of milestones in the coming months. This fall she celebrates her 25th anniversary at the firm, and in January she begins her role as co-managing partner — the first woman in WilmerHale’s history to be named to the three-year position.

Murley joined WilmerHale in 1985 as a summer associate and returned to the firm upon graduating law school in the fall of 1986. It was a time when there were not many women in the firm’s corporate practice group.

A driven and effective leader, Murley quickly demonstrated how to maintain stability while raising a family and focusing on a career.

“My proudest professional achievement, I’d have to say, was helping to pave the way at our firm for a generation of women corporate lawyers to achieve enough balance to practice successfully and raise a family,” she says.

Murley concentrates her practice primarily in the areas of corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions and corporate governance. Her practice includes the representation of

publicly held companies, as well as venture-backed and other privately held companies.

Murley chairs WilmerHale’s corporate and transactional department, which is comprised of 300 attorneys in eight offices. Since

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taking on the role in 2008, she has steered the department successfully through the global economic crisis, including overseeing more than 125 mergers and acquisitions; more than \$10 billion in credit facilities, note issuances and receivable securitizations; and more than 50 public offerings and Rule 144A financings.

She has also helped expand the transactional practice in Palo Alto, Calif., and New York, two key strategic growth areas for the firm, and built a corporate and transactional group in Germany.

— LISA JOSEFAK