

## 2011 TOP WOMEN OF LAW

# KAREN F. GREEN

Partner | WilmerHale, Boston | Harvard University, Harvard Law School



JOHN MECKLENBURG

**I**t takes a lot for Karen F. Green to lose her focus.

Case in point: When she was nearly full term with the pregnancy of her first son in 1986, she successfully argued a motion for summary judgment in the high-profile Environmental Protection Agency suit ordering the cleanup of the Boston Harbor.

“My client delivered a copy of the court’s decision — and flowers — to the hospital shortly after ... Colin was born,” she recalls.

Today, celebrating her 30th year as an attorney, Green practices in the area of complex business litigation, including the defense of white-collar criminal and False Claims Act litigation. At the request of corporate clients, she also conducts internal investigations.

Green has spent 24 years of her three-decade career at WilmerHale. She joined the firm in 1982, intermittently leaving to pursue public service work.

From 1984 through 1986, Green was an assistant U.S. attorney in the civil division of the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Boston. She was appointed deputy chief of the division in June 1986, before returning to WilmerHale the following year. She was elected to junior partnership in 1988 and to senior partnership in 1990.

Three years later, Green was appointed

chief of staff to Gov. William F. Weld.

But Green isn’t just about the billable hours. She’s a member of the Advisory Committee on the Rules of Practice and Internal Operating Procedures of the 1st U.S. Circuit

### What’s your proudest professional achievement?

“Successfully arguing a motion for summary judgment in the Boston Harbor case while 8½ months pregnant. My client delivered a copy of the court’s decision — and flowers — to the hospital shortly after my first son, Colin, was born.”

Court of Appeals and has served as vice chair of the Supreme Judicial Court’s Committee on Pro Bono Legal Services. She’s also been a member of the 1st Circuit’s Gender Bias Committee and the U.S. District Court’s Committee to Revise the Local Criminal Rules and the Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution.

Among her many honors, Green was selected for inclusion in “The International Who’s Who of Business Lawyers” for 2009 and 2011, and chosen by her peers for inclusion in “The Best Lawyers in America” for 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011, in the area of white-collar criminal defense.

— LISA JOSEFAK