

## LISA J. PIROZZOLO

Partner, WilmerHale, Boston

CORNELL UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL

*W* Top  
Women  
of law **2013**



*"You have to create a culture where it's accepted and expected that people are balancing things."*

Of Lisa J. Pirozzolo's career achievements, building a successful litigation practice while staying actively involved in family life is the one that makes her proudest.

Balancing the two wasn't always easy, but looking back, she says, "it's very rewarding to have managed to have both of those aspects of my life."

Pirozzolo is passionate about increasing professional development opportunities for women. She and her colleagues established her firm's Women's Leadership Initiative, and she co-leads WilmerHale's Work/Life Balance Committee.

Having achieved her own sense of equilibrium, Pirozzolo says she is eager to help other women do the same, however they define their own balance.

"You have to create a culture where it's accepted and expected that people are balancing things," she says.

Pirozzolo's well-rounded practice includes challenging intellectual property cases, pro bono work, community service and leadership positions at her firm, including co-chairing the IP litigation practice group.

"It's always a great pleasure to meet people who have developed a new invention or discovered a compound that's going to solve serious health problems," she says.

Pirozzolo has represented indigent clients pro bono in civil rights cases in which she challenged racial discrimination and fought to protect prisoners' rights. In one of those cases, she led a team that won damages for a prisoner who claimed a constitutional rights violation after he was held in long-term solitary confinement as a pre-trial detainee.

"I found it very rewarding to help him carry through on a very good claim that he had brought himself," she says. "Prisoners also have constitutional rights, and it's important to recognize that and make sure those rights are being respected."

Pirozzolo has been co-counsel with the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, for which she serves as board treasurer, on cases fighting racial injustice and police brutality. She also volunteers with her firm's Youth and Education Initiative, an effort to expand educational experiences for at-risk Boston youth.



WILMERHALE® 

WILMER CUTLER PICKERING HALE AND DORR LLP®

[www.wilmerhale.com](http://www.wilmerhale.com)