

# Top Women of Law 2022



## LAURA E. SCHNEIDER

*Partner*

**WilmerHale, BOSTON**

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Laura E. Schneider doesn't mind being in a courtroom, but she prefers helping her clients avoid being there in the first place.

The WilmerHale partner sees advising and counseling clients as the most rewarding part of her job. "I actually thought it would be more rewarding to help clients avoid potential problems that lead to litigation as well as trying to get them out of trouble at the end," she says.

As the daughter and granddaughter of labor lawyers, Schneider's career path in employment law may have seemed like a foregone conclusion. But she originally considered attending grad school for a literature degree perhaps with an eye towards being a high school English teacher.

Later, she thought about a career as a public defender.

"That is still perhaps what I want to do when I decide what I want to be when I grow up," she jokes.

Schneider has spent the past three decades at WilmerHale, where she started as a summer associ-

ate in 1991 doing general litigation before gravitating to employment law.

"I work on things that, if they don't turn out right, could get my clients into the spotlight or into the news," says Schneider, who made partner with the firm in the early 2000s. "The thing that I find most gratifying is helping my clients not be in the spotlight and not be in the news. I like working behind the scenes."

Colleagues identify Schneider as a mentor and leader. She helps conduct culture reviews as well as racial equity and civil rights audits for clients with respect to DEI efforts, talent management practices and an overall commitment to safer, healthier work environments.

Schneider works on compliance matters, personnel policies, employee relations, internal investigations and performance management, and assists clients with everything from negotiating employment and severance agreements to dealing with issues associated with mergers, acquisitions and other corporate transactions.