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WOMEN LEADERS IN TECH LAW: SONAL MEHTA WILMER CUTLER PICKERING HALE AND DORR

Q&A Sonal Mehta, a partner for Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr, is being recognized as one of 20 Women Leaders in Tech Law as part of The Recorder's California Legal Awards.

The San Francisco and Palo Alto-based litigator regularly represents Silicon Valley's top tech companies, including Meta Platforms Inc., formerly Facebook. Mehta represents the social media giant in an antitrust case brought by a proposed class of app developers. In two rulings in the litigation, plaintiffs' claims have been dismissed with prejudice at the pleadings stage.

Mehta recently shared with The Recorder her accomplishments over the last year and advice for women starting out in tech.

What's your proudest professional achievement of the past year and why? I have been incredibly proud to lead teams that have achieved some awesome wins for our clients this past year at the trial and appellate

levels, but I think my proudest moments have been where clients ranging from startups to big tech companies have called me for counsel on really tough issues. I always want to win for my clients in the courtroom—always—but I find it incredibly rewarding to have the trust of my clients to advise them on business or legal strategy with an eye to minimizing risk or avoiding the courtroom altogether.

What's one piece of advice you'd give to a woman starting out in tech law? Be yourself. Be confident but also humble. Speak up but also listen. Don't be afraid to ask hard questions, but also admit when you don't know all the answers. (Sometimes there is no answer!) Seek out opportunities, and when you get them, blow people away with how hard you work and how good you are. Be good to people.

What is a group or tool that has helped you grow in your career or contributes to the development of pipelines for women



Sonal N. Mehta partner with WilmerHale.

leaders in tech law? I owe my career to my mentors. I've been so lucky to have so many mentors and advocates from the very early days of my career including colleagues, clients, judges, and even opposing counsel.

Do you have a memorable women-helping-women moment in your career during the pandemic? I don't know that I could pick one moment. Instead, when I think back on the pandemic, I think I will remember how supported I felt by women—my partners across the firm, my friends in the industry, and my clients. Even in isolation, I never felt alone professionally.