

*Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly recognizes exceptional women attorneys who have made tremendous professional strides and demonstrated great accomplishments in the legal field. Smith Duggan Buell & Rufo partner Barbara Hayes Buell was one of those attorneys who received Top Women of Law honors in recognition of her many outstanding achievements.*



# Cynthia T. Mazareas



Partner

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hen Cynthia T. Mazareas first heard the term “biotechnology” in reference to a possible legal client, her response was “no thanks.” Despite a science background — prior to law school, she worked as a community health nurse in several marginalized Boston neighborhoods that suffered both disproportionate rates of poverty and limited access to basic human needs such as health care — she wasn’t interested in the “tech” angle.

“But within a few weeks of working with these companies, I realized I was helping to address some of the greatest challenges in improving patient outcomes every day,” she says. “I got the bug and morphed into a life sciences lawyer.”

Today, Mazareas devotes her practice to life sciences companies, working with clients to provide strategic business counsel to boards, management teams and in-house counsel to navigate corporate matters and complex business transactions, including public offerings and venture capital financings.

“I absolutely love the companies I work with and knowing that I have this incredible opportunity to be involved in the life sciences industry,” she says. “While monetary success is an important goal for these companies and their stakeholders, the most important goal is good outcomes in the research that they do and trying to improve the quality of life for patients, whether via drugs, devices or services. The best part of my day is coming to work and knowing that in a very, very small way I am contributing to what I believe is the most important industry in the world.”

To give back, Mazareas represents MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership on a variety of matters in a pro bono capacity and serves on the board of directors for Life Sciences Cares.

She is a member of the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council, Massachusetts Bar Association, Boston Bar Association and Massachusetts Black Women Attorneys. She also sits on her firm’s Women’s Leadership Initiative, and Diversity and Hiring committees.