

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.



Emily R. Schulman



Partner
WilmerHale, Boston
HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

Emily R. Schulman has long been a fixture of the local white-collar defense bar, both at the trial level and the appellate level, having briefed and argued dozens of cases before the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, while also having handled more than 20 jury trials in U.S. District Court, first as an assistant U.S. attorney in Boston and subsequently in private practice.

Schulman, a WilmerHale partner, defends companies, boards of directors and individuals in criminal litigation, government enforcement actions and grand jury investigations involving allegations of false claims, health care and economic fraud and violations of securities law.

“I find it rewarding to help people facing major and frightening problems that often risk a serious loss of liberty,” Schulman says of her clients. “It’s a very intimate and important relationship you have with them in the most dire moments they may face in their lives.”

Schulman is particularly proud of cases where she’s defended individuals targeted in investigations and, as a result of her advocacy, the government has ultimately declined to prosecute.

“It’s quite a daunting situation,” she says. “Governmental power has to be exercised in a careful and scrupulous way that is truly based on the facts.”

Schulman also maintains a busy pro bono and court-appointed caseload.

“It’s been especially gratifying to be able to advocate on [indigent defendants’] behalf where they’re not in a position to retain their own counsel and secure legal representation from top-flight firms like WilmerHale,” she says.

Beyond her practice, Schulman co-chairs the Women’s White Collar Defense Association’s Boston chapter, where she helps promote professional development of women in an overwhelmingly male-dominated field.

Meanwhile, she’s a visiting lecturer at Harvard Law School and has taught U.S. criminal law and procedure to law students in Russia.

“I draw real strength from seeing the ranks of lawyers that are coming up in the field and feel deeply reassured at the infusion of energy and commitment and vision they bring with them,” Schulman says.