

# 2019 Top Women of law

MASSACHUSETTS  
LAWYERS WEEKLY

## MONICA GREWAL

Partner, WilmerHale, Boston  
University of Connecticut Law School



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An intellectual property partner at WilmerHale and co-chair of the firm’s post-grant proceedings practice group, Monica Grewal’s road to a legal career took a winding path.

Originally an engineer whose work involved testing products from space stations to spacesuits for the U.S. space program, Grewal was intrigued when some of her colleagues began exploring patent law.

Finding law school “fascinating,” Grewal switched directions, weaving in her science and engineering background to the benefit of her clients. She handles significant IP matters that involve the disciplines of biomedical devices and electrical, mechanical and computer engineering, builds strategic patent portfolios, and has experience with patent litigation in the International Trade Commission and federal courts. Monica was named among the top 50 women in PTAB trials in 2019 by the PTAB Bar Association.

Grewal has taken on leadership positions at her firm, co-chairing its Boston diversity committee and taking part in its Women’s Leadership Initiative. She is also involved in the firm’s pro bono efforts, taking on cases ranging from asylum to divorce to Social Security Administration benefits.

A founding member and former director of the Patent Trial and Appeal Board Bar Association, Grewal is a past president of the board of governors of the Boston Patent Law Association and a member of the Trinity College Engineering Advisory Committee.

Often finding herself the only woman in a male-dominated practice of law, Grewal mentors female IP lawyers and founded the Boston chapter of Chiefs in Intellectual Property (ChIPs), a nonprofit focused on advancing and connecting women in law, technology and policy.

“The lack of diversity in the legal profession and particularly in areas of science and engineering is real,” she says. “My mantra is to put my elbows on the table and keep them there. As women, we have an added responsibility to make sure that the next generation feels a little bit more liberated by virtue of us being at those tables armed with our well grounded pointy elbows.”

— Correy E. Stephenson