

WOMEN, INFLUENCE & POWER IN LAW AWARDS

RECOGNIZING TRANSFORMATIVE LEGAL LEADERSHIP

Our 2020 special report honors women who have demonstrated a commitment to advancing the empowerment of women in law.

Law Firm Honorees

JOYCE EDELMAN

PORTER WRIGHT MORRIS & ARTHUR

Partner

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

JOYCE EDELMAN IS COMMITTED TO ACHIEVING DIVERSITY, EQUITY and inclusion in the legal profession. Edelman founded and chair Porter Wright's Women's Leadership Initiative and lead the firm's Mansfield Rule efforts. She chairs the firm's Life Sciences practice and defends litigation involving regulated products, including medical devices, pharmaceuticals, dietary supplements, consumer goods and chemicals. Edelman was named Ohio Super Lawyers Top 25 Columbus Women Attorneys for 2019 and 2020. She also received the Ohio Women's Bar Association Founders' Award and the Columbus Bar Association President's Award. She was selected as a "Woman WELDing the Way®" 2020 Calendar Honoree for my life-long advocacy of women.

WHAT WAS YOUR ROUTE TO THE TOP? I grew up in West Virginia and graduated from Indiana University with a degree in Women's Studies. I attended West Virginia University College of Law and joined Porter Wright upon graduation. I became a lawyer because I wanted an intellectually challenging career and chose a product liability practice because I love life sciences. I also wanted to make a difference in the lives of women and girls. I'm a founding member of the Ohio Women's Bar Association and former chair of the Ohio State Bar Association's Section on Women in the Profession. As chair of our Women's Leadership Initiative, I work tirelessly to champion our firm's diversity efforts and create an inclusive workplace where everyone is valued, respected and heard.

LOOKING BACK, WHAT DO YOU WISH YOU HAD KNOWN WHEN YOU STARTED OUT IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION? I wish I had known



that having good mentors is a key component to success! As my career grew, I realized that strong mentoring relationships are valuable assets that should be nurtured. And, I have made it a priority to mentor, sponsor and coach younger women and minority attorneys in our firm because I want them to have equal opportunities to obtain meaningful work, engage with clients and be promoted. I routinely interact with my mentees, listen to their concerns, provide practical advice and encourage them to get outside of their comfort zones. I urge my mentees to take charge of their careers and be true to themselves.

WHAT IS THE BEST LEADERSHIP ADVICE YOU'VE GIVEN OR RECEIVED, AND WHY DO YOU THINK IT WAS EFFECTIVE? "Don't be a well-kept secret" is the best leadership advice I have received. Over the years, this advice has encouraged me to bring my authentic self to work, to have confidence when it counts, to silence my inner critic and be my own champion. It has helped me get comfortable with stating my accomplishments, believing in myself and taking charge of my career. And, it has proven effective because it makes me realize that I cannot wait for an invitation to claim my seat at the table because I have valuable contributions to make and experiences to share. This advice also helps me find my voice and use it for others who do not yet have a seat at the table. ■