

LAW WEEK COLORADO



Clockwise from top left: Jill Chalmers, Sabrina Stavish,

TOP WOMEN LAWYERS

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marketing, entertainment, commercial products, clearances and when you can use names and when you can't."

In addition to having an eye for a client's best interest, Stavish is also a great leader, he says. "She's been on our firm's management committee for two rotations and has good business sense and great ability to work with attorneys as well as staff," Blakely said. "She can manage all of those diverse things, and she's found time for volunteer work as a board member of Legal Aid Foundation, the Denver Bar Association and as a mom of three to boot."

As chair and now immediate past chair of the Legal Aid Foundation of Colorado, Stavish helped raise more than half of its annual funds for Colorado Legal Services, an organization that provides free legal services to low-income families, seniors, people with physical and mental disabilities and victims of domestic violence.

"She's very attentive to our mission, she's thorough and she's the kind of board chair you would like to have," said Diana Poole, executive director of the LAF. "She's very committed to our mission of raising money for legal aid." •

— Alicia McNally, amcnally@circuitmedia.com

Kirstin Stoll-DeBell

To hear her clients tell it, Kirstin Stoll-DeBell is the go-to person for intellectual properties disputes. A patent and



trademark litigation partner with Merchant & Gould's Denver office, Stoll-DeBell represents both plaintiffs and defendants in IP litigation.

She recently defended Minnesota-based Halo Innovations against a lawsuit filed by a larger competitor in federal court in Denver.

"There was more than just a working relationship," Halo CEO Chuck Dorsey said. "She was, I think, emotionally invested in the success of the company and the outcome of the litigation."

Halo makes a wearable blanket for babies designed to prevent Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, or SIDS. The blanket has "back to sleep" embroidered on the front to reinforce the National Institute of Health's "back to sleep" campaign warning parents not to let babies sleep on their bellies, which is a risk factor for SIDS. But Halo's competitor had trademarked the phrase "back to sleep" for one of its baby products and filed a trademark infringement suit.

"The financial implications for us as an organization were quite significant," Dorsey said.

Stoll-DeBell helped Halo reach a favorable settlement after winning a motion to compel the competitor's privileged documents relating to Halo's trademark fraud counterclaim. Dorsey said he was especially glad Stoll-DeBell was on his side after watching her performance at a mock-trial focus group.

"She took the lead in this role-playing process of the lead attorney from the other side, and it was kind of scary watching her argue against us," he said.

She also helped Minnesota-based Shavlik Technologies negotiate settlement of an IP lawsuit against the company relating to securities software it makes. Stoll-DeBell quickly mastered the nuances of the technology, Shavlik Chief Financial Officer Dan Kinsella said.

"That allowed us to always appear to be a step ahead with the plaintiff," Kinsella said.

And her style and sense of humor made a tense situation more bearable, he said.

"When you work a lot of hours with somebody, it's hard at times to keep perspective," he said. "She has an unflappable style that kept things light when appropriate and made it as enjoyable as it possibly could be." •

— Matt Masich, mmasich@circuitmedia.com

Phyllis Wan

Phyllis Wan of Hogan & Hartson is a diversity dynamo. She works as a telecommunications attorney specializing in entertainment law. But her skills span much further than corporate boardrooms.



Colleagues say Wan is dedicated to diversity and inclusiveness within the law firm culture. Hogan & Hartson recently named Wan as deputy chief diversity officer, a role well deserved, according to Cole Finegan, managing partner at the Denver firm.

"She gives a lot of her time to those efforts," he said. "We are very fortunate that Phyllis is not only an excellent attorney, but very dedicated to constantly improving our diversity and making sure we're trying to bring in different people."

This role allows Wan to travel to the firm's 26 offices worldwide to meet with diverse and female attorneys, working on the inclusion and advancement of these lawyers. Wan also serves as Hogan & Hartson's liaison to the Colorado Campaign for Inclusive Excellence and the Colorado Pledge to Diversity Legal Group. Finegan has only worked with Wan for three years, but he's already impressed.

"She works very hard to make sure she gives her best efforts to the firm and to her clients," he said.