

WOMEN LEADERS IN TECH LAW

They're helping build new business models and defending them from court challenges. They're negotiating transformational deals that remake companies and move markets. And through it all their clients—which run the spectrum from solo entrepreneurs to tech giants—rely on them for a steady hand and sound counsel.

How would we describe these attorneys? The same way their clients and colleagues do—calm, levelheaded, persistent, determined, tenacious, strategic, bold.

The Recorder's 2016 Women Leaders in Tech Law are leaders in board rooms and courtrooms across the Bay Area. They can't wait for Silicon Valley to come up with the next batch of inventions to squeeze more time out of each day—and to shorten their commutes. (Think beyond driverless cars... more like Star Trek teleporters.) They wish people would put their devices down during meetings and write shorter emails. And they've got some thoughts on how to ensure that the next generation of women are more equally represented in tech law.

Ross Todd
Bureau Chief

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CYNTHIA HESS

Partner and co-chair, startup & venture capital practice, Fenwick & West

This year, Fitbit became the second U.S. wearable technology company to go public—and the second to be taken public by Cynthia Hess. (The first was GoPro in 2014.) In addition to representing Fitbit in its \$732 million IPO, Hess helped startups including WeWork, Zerto and Zimperium raise hundreds of millions of dollars in funding. She also represents Cisco Systems in its strategic investment transactions.

Name a tech lawyer whose work you admire and why?

I have many colleagues in my firm whom I admire, but I would call out Gordy Davidson, for the incredible depth and breadth of his knowledge base.

What's your biggest pet peeve related to working in the tech sector?

Keeping up with email and following conversations on "reply all" email threads.



JASON DOY

I can't wait until we invent ...

A mind-reader. :)

If I weren't a lawyer, I'd be ...

A writer.

Favorite way to kill time on a cross-country flight?

Sleep!! Zzzz.

In 50 words or less: what can be done to tackle tech's gender gap?

I think with the awareness it's actually gotten a bit better. I've seen this in board meetings with the companies I represent. We continue to make progress here.

One word people use to describe you:
Energetic!

—Rebecca Cohen