

The Best Law Firms For Female Partners

By **Amanda James**

Law360 (May 28, 2019, 8:05 PM EDT) -- Law360's annual Glass Ceiling report again showed little progress has been made in the upper echelons of the legal profession to provide equal opportunities for women.

The lack of women in the highest ranks at law firms doesn't correlate with the high percentage — more than 50% — of women in law school, and the nearly 50% of women who are in nonpartner roles.

Less than one in four female partners at a firm is an equity partner, according to a survey of more than 300 law firms conducted by Law360. Though the percentage has increased in the past five years, from 17% in 2013 to 21% in 2018, it's still far short of parity.

"There still seems to be a glass ceiling at the highest level of firms in terms of power, and percent of female equity partners is a good marker to see whether or not a firm is really committed to diversity," said Sarretta C. McDonough, president of the National Association of Women in Law.

The following list ranks firms by their percentage of female equity partners separated into categories based on the firm's size.

Some firms — Manning & Kass Ellrod Ramirez Trester LLP, Culhane Meadows PLLC, Brundo Testan Novell & Jimenez and Wilson Turner Kosmo LLP — have more than 50% equity partners who identify as female. However, the relatively high percentage doesn't necessarily mean a high number of equity partners, since the number of attorneys at each of those firms is fairly low.

The firms on this list show a different picture of what it's like for women who want to advance, and at all of the firms in the top 10 of each category, women make up at least one in five equity partners. At many firms on the list, women make up more than one-third of equity partners.

The Ceiling Smashers

These equity partnerships have the highest representation of women.

Firm Size	Rank	Firm	% Female Equity Partners
600+ attorneys	1	Littler	29.6%
	2	Jackson Lewis	28.3%
	3	Ropes & Gray	26.3%
	4	Hogan Lovells	26.2%
	5	Morrison & Foerster	26.2%
	6	Covington	25.6%
	7	Jones Day	25.5%
	8	WilmerHale	25.2%
	9	Morgan Lewis	25.2%
	10	Kilpatrick Townsend	25.1%
300-599 attorneys	1	Fragomen	47.1%
	2	Marshall Dennehey	31.4%
	3	Holland & Hart	29.6%
	4	Kutak Rock	28.1%
	5	Davis Wright Tremaine	27.3%
	6	Carlton Fields	27.1%
	7	Shook Hardy	25.4%
	8	Arent Fox	25.0%
	9	Stinson	24.1%
	10	Quarles & Brady	23.4%
150-299 attorneys	1	Manning & Kass	64.0%
	2	Nossaman	42.9%
	3	Hanson Bridgett	38.2%
	4	Miller Nash	34.5%
	5	Shipman & Goodwin	32.2%
	6	Best Best & Krieger	32.1%
	7	Fredrikson & Byron	30.6%
	8	Constangy Brooks	30.2%
	9	Bricker & Eckler	29.1%
	10	Gray Plant	28.1%
50-149 attorneys	1	Brundo Testan	60.0%
	1	Culhane Meadows	60.0%
	3	Walsworth	50.0%
	4	Jackson Kelly	44.6%
	5	Berry Appleman	42.9%
		Davis Brown	40.0%

	6	Manning Gross	40.0%
		Nicolaides Fink	40.0%
	9	Verrill Dana	39.6%
	10	FordHarrison	38.7%
20-49 attorneys	1	Sideman & Bancroft	63.6%
	2	Wilson Turner	55.6%
	3	Cowan DeBaets	50.0%
		Katz Marshall	50.0%
	5	Stokes Lawrence	47.6%
	6	Eimer Stahl	42.9%
		ZwillGen PLLC	42.9%
	8	Hamilton Brook	40.0%
		Wilkinson Walsh	40.0%
	10	Fross Zelnick	39.1%

--Editing by Pamela Wilkinson, Jocelyn Allison and John Campbell.

Methodology: Law360 collected attorney head count data from more than 300 U.S. firms, or vereins with a U.S. component or similar structure, about their demographic makeup as of Dec. 31, 2018. Only U.S.-based attorneys were included and firms must have at least 20 U.S.-based attorneys to participate. Firms are ranked based on their percentage of U.S. equity partners that identify as female. Firms that declined to disclose their equity partnership gender data were not eligible for the ranking.