

WASHINGTON'S

# Most Influential Women Lawyers

In a profession still dominated by men, these power players have taken a sledgehammer to the glass ceiling to grab their place among the elite of the Washington bar.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

A time will arrive, perhaps soon, when singling out lawyers by gender will seem wholly unnecessary. Unfortunately, we're not there yet. Don't buy it? Try answering this question: How many major law firms can you name that are run by women—ditto practice groups, corporate law departments, advocacy groups, public agencies? Some of them? Certainly. Half? Not even close. Barriers have fallen and continue to do so, and the lawyers on our list of Washington's Most Influential Women have career paths that any lawyer—male or female—would envy. These are power players, and they were selected by the editors of *The National Law Journal* for work that places them in an elite tier. We are recognizing their work, their influence and the fact that they may have had to work a bit harder than many of their male colleagues to get where they are today. Here's to the day when that won't be necessary. —DAVID L. BROWN, editor in chief



**DEBORAH GARZA**  
Covington & Burling LLP

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When Deborah Garza was appointed by President George W. Bush in 2005 to chair a bipartisan commission on updating antitrust law, people warned her that the job would be akin to herding cats. “This was a diverse group of very experienced, highly opinionated attorneys,” said Jonathan Jacobson of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, one of 12 members of the Antitrust Modernization Commission. “It’s a credit to her that the commission was able to reach the consensus that it did on a number of issues.” More important, the commission’s 427-page report, issued in 2007, has become a go-to reference for lawmakers. It’s also a significant achievement in Garza’s 29-year career—which includes time at four of the country’s most prestigious law firms and three stints in the U.S. Department of Justice’s Antitrust Division, most recently as its acting chief. Since rejoining Covington & Burling as co-chairwoman of the antitrust practice in 2009, she has handled such big-ticket matters as Merck & Co.’s \$41 billion merger with Schering-Plough Corp. and Exxon Mobil Corp.’s \$31 billion acquisition of XTO Energy Inc. “She’s been involved in antitrust issues and policy for her entire career,” said Covington colleague (and Garza’s predecessor as Antitrust Division head) Thomas Barnett, “and she brings all of that to bear.” —KAREN SLOAN

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