

# Diversity Spotlight - Jean Veta



D. Jean Veta has become accustomed to breaking glass ceilings. Over the last three decades, Jean has distinguished herself in the male-dominated world of defending financial institutions, their officers and directors against governmental enforcement actions.

Jean is often the only senior woman in the room, whether she is meeting with other defense counsel or defending her client in separate cases filed by the SEC, the FDIC and private securities class action plaintiffs. Jean served in a government post during the Clinton administration as deputy associate attorney general at the Justice Department, after having served as deputy general counsel in the Department of Education.

Born and raised in Cheyenne, Wyoming, Jean has always possessed an inner drive to succeed and mentor others. Graduating *magna cum laude* and *Order of the Coif* from Tulane Law School in 1981, Jean served as the first woman editor-in-chief of the *Tulane Law Review* since World War II. (She was told that the previous woman editor was a stand-in for the “real” students who were at war.)

Jean spearheaded Covington’s efforts to promote women lawyers and was a key player in launching the American Bar Association Section of Litigation’s focus on “The Woman Advocate” in the 1990s. In the accompanying 1995 book, “*The Woman Advocate*,” Jean wrote a chapter aptly entitled, “Grabbing the Brass Ring: Making Partner at a Large Firm.”

Jean became the eighth woman at Covington to earn her partnership stripes. She has served as chair of the firm’s financial institutions practice group and is recognized by *Chambers USA* as a leader in the field of financial services enforcement and investigations and in *Best Lawyers in America* for banking law. Jean was shortlisted for the 2012 *Chambers USA* “Women in Law” awards as a finalist for the “Regulatory Lawyer of the Year” honor. She is also listed as one of *Washington’s Super Lawyers* in white collar criminal defense and is recommended by *The Legal 500 US* for SEC investigations and financial services regulatory enforcement actions.

In addition to her financial and regulatory work, Jean litigates *pro bono* matters on behalf of women’s rights and LGBT issues. Most recently, Jean served as the partner-in-charge in representing a coalition of civil rights and faith-based groups in successfully defending Washington D.C.’s same-sex marriage law.

Her professional achievements notwithstanding, Jean is clear about her proudest accomplishment: her spouse, Mary Ann, and their children, Caleb, 10 and twins, Emma and Micah, 7. Her office is filled with her children’s art work and photos of family adventures. For Jean, they are the ultimate brass ring.

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