Judith Hasko
Partner, Latham & Watkins

Hasko focuses her practice on biotech deals. Last year, she advised Redwood City-based OncoMed Pharmaceuticals in an agreement with Celgene Corporation to jointly develop and commercialize up to six anti-cancer stem cell product candidates from OncoMed’s biologics pipeline and the potential development of small molecule anti-cancer therapeutics. With a potential total value of $3.3 billion, the intricate agreement is likely the largest early clinical deal in biotech history. It includes an upfront payment to OncoMed of $155 million, the purchase by Celgene of some $22 million in newly issued shares of OncoMed’s common stock, and a series of milestone payments paid on a per-program basis.

Name a mentor and the most important thing you learned from him or her.
My partner at Latham, Alan Mendelson, taught me how much clients value direct, practical advice based on experience, and how important it is to become a true member of the client’s team.

One piece of advice you’d give a woman starting out in tech law?
Tech law offers many diverse opportunities to demonstrate your talents; seek them out.

Time saving tip?
Don’t spend time worrying about what you can’t control.

One word others would use to describe you?
Meticulous. The collaborative biotech agreements on which I often advise are complex transactions involving a wide range of revenue sharing mechanisms and intellectual property matters, all of which require a lot of attention to details.

Favorite gadget?
I am not a gadget-oriented person, which is hard to believe given that I live in Silicon Valley.

What recent development do you see having a big effect on your practice, industry or area of focus?
Healthcare reform and changes in patent laws are impacting the products the life science industry develops and the types of companies investors support.

Whose job do you wish you had?
If I stepped away from my current position, I’d likely be tempted to lead an emerging company given how inspiring the entrepreneurs I work with have been.

Biggest accomplishment outside of work?
I’ve completed six marathons to date.