

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT • WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2017

# INFLUENTIAL WOMEN

For all the progress that has been made toward gender equality in the United States, many glaring disparities still exist, most notably when it comes to pay. Additionally, studies have shown that women continue to be underrepresented in corporate boardrooms, among law firm partnerships and in the C-suite.

Despite these challenges, however, women are making a significant impact in the business world, especially in San Diego.

So for our inaugural Influential Women section, we wanted to showcase the unsung heroes of the San Diego County business community. Those women whose stories have yet to be highlighted, but who are helping manage tricky construction projects or handling multimillion-dollar real estate leases. Those who are litigating complex intellectual property lawsuits and launching innovative products.

The women on the list have had an impact on their company, industry and community. Many hold leadership roles in industry organizations. They are paving the way for future generations and making life better, not only for women, but for men, too.

As you read, we believe you'll agree that San Diego County is home to some of the most influential women in the country.

— The Editors

## INFLUENTIAL WOMEN

LAW

### Stephanie Kuhlen

LATHAM & WATKINS LLP  
PARTNER

Kuhlen has broad experience in all aspects of finance and real estate law, representing borrowers and lenders in complex finance transactions. She focuses her practice on renewable energy, casino hotel development and management, and health care.

Recent accomplishments include the acquisition and financing of multiple photovoltaic solar facilities along a single transmission line in Imperial County. Kuhlen said it was one of the most complicated real estate transactions she has completed.

Kuhlen considered a career providing psychological services at college campuses, but instead decided to pursue a law degree at the University of Southern California. While she never used her master's in counseling degree in practice, she gained skills in negotiations and group dynamics that she said have been invaluable to her as an attorney.

As a board member of Big Brothers Big Sisters of San Diego County, she recently participated with other professional wom-



en in a Girl Scouts of San Diego weekend camp in Julian, mentoring high school girls. Kuhlen also does what she can to mentor young attorneys within Latham & Watkins LLP.

The best advice she has for young profes-

sionals is to learn their craft or trade well.

"Because once you're an expert, people gravitate toward you, regardless of gender," she said. "I don't get hung up on being a woman in a male industry."

— Jennifer Chung Klam