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TOP WOMEN LAWYERS



MARGARET A. TOUGH

Latham & Watkins LLP
San Francisco

Practice type: Litigation

Specialty: White collar defense and investigations

Tough, who joined Latham & Watkins LLP in 2002 just out of law school and made partner in January 2011, primarily handles white-collar defense, and it's the trial itself that is most exciting for her.

"I really do enjoy trials. That's what I like the most," Tough said.

Currently, Tough is heavily involved in the firm's representation of Pacific Gas & Electric Co. in connection with approximately 100 lawsuits and government and regulatory investigations stemming from a September 2010 natural gas pipeline explosion in a residential neighborhood in San Bruno.

"There is a government investigation, which is being run jointly by the Department of Justice and the California Attorney General's office and San Mateo District Attorney's office," Tough said. "We are involved in defending the company in that investigation."

Tough also had a prominent role in a November 2010 case in which a team of Latham & Watkins attorneys won a defense verdict on behalf of Marvell Technology Group Ltd., despite an incriminating voicemail left by its general counsel, *Jasmine Networks Inc. v. Marvell Semiconductor Inc.*, 1-01-CV-901411 (Santa Clara County Superior Court).

"I came on to the trial team shortly before we went to trial," Tough said. "I oversaw most of the brief writing in that case."

In addition to her trial work, Tough is leading several Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and export controls investigation defenses; defending the CEO of a failed California bank; and representing an investment advisory firm in various tax shelter-related lawsuits.

"That's part of what I like most," Tough said. "The challenge of complicated parallel proceedings."

— David McAfee